

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TOWN OFFICERS**



**TOWN
OF
WESTHAMPTON**

**FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017**

DEDICATION

Mary Holt

Mary Holt was born on November 22, 1936 and passed away on January 7, 2018 at the age of 81. She spent her childhood in Northampton helping her parents run a market garden. She moved to Westhampton in 1962 to raise her family and was proud to live in this special community ever since.

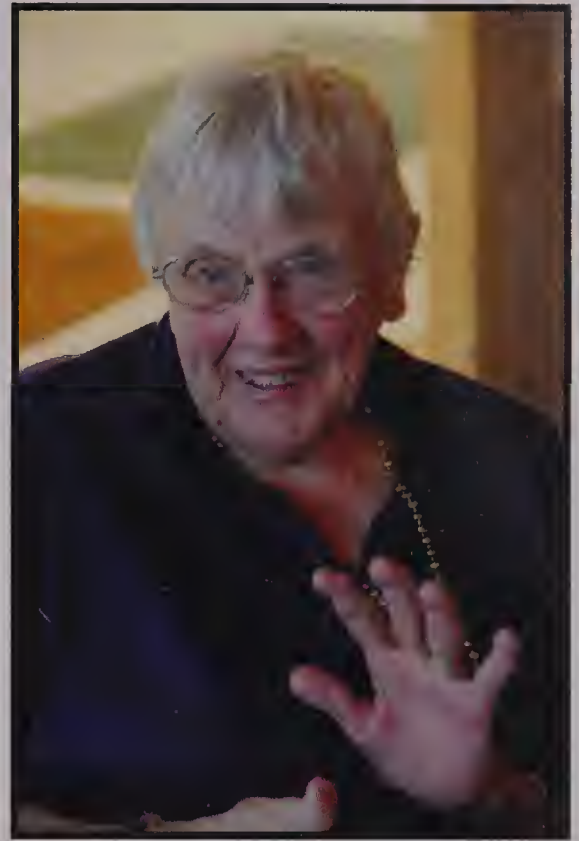
Mary dedicated her entire adulthood to a life of service. She spent a lifetime working hard behind the scenes; she did not enjoy the spotlight or leadership roles, but was very involved in many aspects of the town and the church. Mary and her entire family spent many years doing janitorial work in the Town Hall, the Church and the Center School, caring for the physical space and making sure everything was clean, maintained and well cared for. She was very proud of this town and took her responsibility as a town resident to heart. Of the 56 years that she lived in town, Mary attended 54 Annual Meetings, missing only two years when she was physically unable to come. Mary took attendance at Town Meetings and volunteered for Town Elections. She provided daycare for friends and neighbors while her children were growing up, and her house was considered a second home to many. She worked at Hampshire Regional High School in the cafeteria until her retirement, and enjoyed going out to lunch regularly with the "lunch ladies", who remain a close knit group. And her table was open to anyone who wished to join the family for Sunday dinner.

But of all Mary's activities, her greatest legacy by far was her welcoming spirit. Most Westhampton residents will remember Mary coming to visit them when they first moved into town, because she served as the "welcome wagon lady" for about 50 years. Other women served with her over the years on behalf of the church, but this was Mary's calling, providing new folks a warm welcome filled with love and friendship. Mary's preference for behind the scenes activities should not be interpreted as quiet. Mary loved to talk! And to visit! And once she met new residents, she had a great capacity for remembering their names, and continued to make them feel welcome as they became active and part of the fabric of the community. Mary had an enormous capacity for love, and everyone around her felt its warmth. Her greatest joy was her love for family and friends and for this very special town that we get to call home. As she aged, her mobility issues slowed her down in body, but certainly didn't slow her down in spirit. Mary was so genuine and a true friend to everyone in her life. Her family is forever grateful that they celebrated her 80th birthday in the summer of 2017 with a big open-invitation Westhampton party to shower her with the love that she so freely gave to everyone else.

Dedicating this year's Annual Report to Mary Holt is well deserved as we recognize and honor her as a beloved daughter of Westhampton.

Sincerely,

James Huston, Chair
Philip Dowling, Clerk
Arthur Pichette



REPORT OF THE SELECTBOARD

The year began with Philip Dowling as Chair, James Huston as Clerk, and Arthur Pichette. In June, Philip Dowling was re-elected for a three year term and the board re-organized with James Huston as Chair, Philip Dowling as Clerk, and Arthur Pichette. Cheryl Provost continues as Administrative Assistant.

We are proud to serve the wonderful Town of Westhampton. There are many activities and opportunities here. The Town website continues to be a resource for residents and visitors to stay connected with town events. To learn more visit us at:

<http://www.westhampton-ma.com/>

Following is some of the business of our board in 2017:

We would to send our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Jerome “Jerry” Ostrowski for his 22 years of service with the Westhampton Highway Department. Jerry, who retired in August, was a dedicated crew member who, after years of midnight plowing runs, has earned a long and relaxing retirement.

Alexander Antosz was hired as a newest member of the Highway Department.

In January, Julia Lennen was appointed as Council On Aging Coordinator and Charles Horn joined the council as a member. We welcome both.

A grant was awarded from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission for technical assistance. This provided assistance to the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee with the development of marijuana bylaws and others, including personal wireless facilities and solar. The committee and Planning Board held a public hearing in December. Voters subsequently approved a medical marijuana bylaw and a moratorium on recreational marijuana bylaw at town meeting on February 12, 2018. The committees work on personal wireless facilities and solar bylaws continues, as well as revisions to the current zoning bylaws.

A new police vehicle was purchased through the state bid for \$46,836.51. Funds were from Free Cash.

The Hampshire Regional District towns began work on a document management shared services project funded by a Community Compact Grant. The project involves negotiating a contract through Northampton’s General Code document management service agreement for digital archiving of permanent records. Research continued on the installation of a server at the Town Hall and Annex. Also under consideration is migrating to cloud-based services.

In June, Caolo & Bienek Associates was awarded the contract to conduct the Feasibility and Conceptual Design/Cost Estimation Study for the Development/Renovation of a Public Safety Complex. This intense project is managed by the Public Safety Complex Review Committee under the authorization of the Selectboard. Their work continues into 2018.

The first Westhampton Cemetery Commission was appointed with members being Karl Norris for three years, Richard I. Tracy for two years, Thomas Warren for one year. Each member will serve a 3 year term, with terms overlapping. We thank Karl, Rick, and Tom for bringing your experience as members of the former Cemetery Society to ease the transition to a town committee.

Building Inspector, Chuck Miller, retired on June 30. We thank Chuck for his years of service and wish him well. Thomas Quinlan was appointed as Building Inspector and Commissioner. We welcome Tom to Westhampton.

At annual town election voters approved a non-binding question to seek a separate zip code for Westhampton. Ginny Curtis continued to research the process and reported back to the board.

A topic of great interest this year was for the consideration of the issuance of a Farmer Series Pouring Permit to Bradford and Jeffrey Morse to be used at Outlook Farm on Main Road. Hearings were held and discussions continued throughout several Selectboard meetings. Careful consideration was necessary as Westhampton is a “dry town”. Recent state laws allow pouring licenses under farming rights. To add to the complication revisions to state laws occurred during the application process. Ultimately, the board approved the application and submitted it to the state for approval.

Signed onto Hampshire Powers “Cow Power” bio-gas energy credits. The program is expected to commence in July 2018 and results in a 10% savings in electricity costs for town owned buildings.

An aging furnace at the Town Hall began to fail in December and was ultimately declared to be out of service. A new furnace was installed in early January after Finance Committee approved a Reserve Fund Transfer for the expense.

To close the year 2017, on December 11 the Town Flag was officially presented at the State House. The flag was the creative idea of Mary Montague and the image was brought to life by the tech work of Robert Miller. The design was later upgraded by Cheryl Provost to allow for print, but maintained the original idea of the historical walnut tree on Stage Road cradling the town seal. Senator Ben Downing had a mission to have his entire district represented in the Hall of Flags. At the time of his early retirement the flag had been printed; however, arrangements could not be made in time for him to see it displayed before leaving office. With the coordination of the office of his predecessor, Senator Adam Hinds, and the office of Representative Peter Kocot the presentation was scheduled. Attendees were treated to a tour of the State House and lunch with the Representative and Senator.



After the flag ceremony, Representative Kocot proudly posed for a picture with the Pink Flamingo he kept in his State House office- a memento from the Westhampton Public Library's "Flock to the Library" fundraiser. We were all shocked and saddened when, after a brief illness, our friend and Representative for over 16 years, passed from this world on February 22, 2018. It will be difficult, literally and figuratively, for anyone to fill his shoes.

We thank all the officials, employees, and volunteers that dedicate their time and services to Westhampton. Without the commitment of such caring individuals the town could not function. Anyone interested in joining a board or committee or volunteering for any projects, large or small, please see us for more information.

The Selectboard meets every other Monday evening and is here to serve you. Contact Cheryl at 413-203-3086 or westhamptontownhall@comcast.net with concerns or to make an appointment to get on our agenda.

Respectfully submitted,

James Huston, Chair
Philip Dowling, Clerk
Arthur Pichette

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

Vital records are kept by the Town Clerk. The State recommends not printing the names of births due to privacy regulations.

Births 8

Westhampton welcomed 5 girls and 3 boys

Marriages License Issued-4

5/6/2017	Richard J. McNeil	to	Dareeya Esaho
6/3/2017	Casey J. Laberge	to	Sarah J. Foley
9/2/2017	John K. Wermer	to	Hannah H. Tracy
9/30/2017	Jeffrey A. Boyce	to	Erica L. Simonette

Deaths 12

01/08/2016	Frank D. Miller	05/18/2016	Charles Inman
01/11/2016	Gordon MacDonald	05/21/2016	Beth Ann Laberge
01/15/2016	Leland H. Marshall	07/27/2016	Lucille R. Wayne
01/19/2016	William V. St. Martin	07/20/2016	Denise I. Williams
01/30/2016	Edward S. Huntley	08/05/2016	Louise Inman
03/08/2016	William F. Thompson	08/10/2016	Martin J. Hogan Jr
05/02/2016	Anne Strayer	10/08/2016	Celia E. Giuliana
05/12/2016	Urena Blakesley	10/19/2016	Jessie Cole
		11/30/2016	Alice Fox

Dog Licenses

Males	18	\$ 180.00	Kennel 4 dogs or less	2	\$ 36.00
Females	9	\$ 90.00	Kennel 5 to 9 dogs	1	\$ 35.00
Spayed	155	\$ 775.00	Kennel 10 dogs up	2	\$130.00
Neutered	137	\$ 685.00			

Totals	319	\$1730.00	Total Kennel Licenses	5	\$201.00
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Dog Licenses are available by March each year. All dogs six months or older must be licensed by June 30th and a current rabies certificate is required. Per State Law, any person whose dog is not licensed by the June deadline is subject to fines and penalties. License information is included with the annual census and application is also available on Town web site.

Historical Preservation

I would like to thank the Historical Society for their generous donation that I used to continue the records preservation project in my office. This year the Town was able to preserve the original documents for births, marriages and deaths for the years 1914-1933. The books are beautiful and I invite anyone interested to stop by and see the finished product

Town Clerk Fees Collected

Burial Permits	3	\$ 60.00
Death Certificates	32	\$160.00
Birth Certificates	21	\$105.00
Marriage Certificates	14	\$ 70.00
Marriage License	4	\$ 80.00
Business Certificate	4	\$ 80.00
Zoning/Planning	4	\$473.00
Pole Location	3	\$ 30.00
Dog Violations	1	\$ 85.00

Total **\$ 1,143.00**

At the Annual Town Meeting held May 13, 2017 and continued June 26, 2017, it was voted to amend the Town Bylaws Article 4, Section 5 Power of appointment. This change was for the addition of a Cemetery Commission. The changes to Bylaws were submitted and approved by the Massachusetts Attorney General on September 29, 2017

Population from local census **1649**

Total Registered Voters **1243**

Democrats 264

Republicans 117

Designation 15

Unenrolled 847

The Annual Town Election was held June 3, 2017. The question to amend the general bylaw to allow the Selectboard to appoint a three member Cemetery Commission passed. The non-binding question passed that asked for the Town to seek its own zip code. There was a Special Town Election held August 5, 2017 which passed a proposition two and one-half override for the amount needed to pay the bonding of a dump truck for the Highway Department.

The Town Clerk holds office hours Monday night from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM and Friday mornings from 8:00 AM to noon. If you cannot make it during these hours please call 413-203-3080 and I will be glad to meet you at another time. Services include providing copies of birth, death and marriage certificates; issuing marriage licenses, dog licenses, business licenses and special permit/variance applications; voter registration; and information needed for all elections. All meetings and agendas are posted on the bulletin board outside the Town Clerk's office and in the mailbox in front of town hall or if you have internet access the Town website www.westhampton-ma.com

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia W. Cotton,
Town Clerk

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Balance July 1, 2016	\$ 1,761,658.12
Receipts	\$ 6,938,939.43
Disbursements	\$ 6,928,348.92
Balance June 30, 2017	\$ 1,772,248.63

Easthampton Library	\$ 7,076.16
Easthampton Savings Collector	\$ 297,764.77
Easthampton Savings Sweep	\$ 288,772.89
Easthampton Savings Bank Charity	\$ 1,958.95
Easthampton Payroll	\$ 7,296.87
MMDT General	\$ 37,793.16
MMDT Cultural Council	\$ 4,705.79
MMDT Septic Grant	\$ 80,522.03
Peoples MM	\$ 133,868.52
Peoples Septic	\$ 5,240.94
Unibank	\$ 588,307.90
Unibank Online Collections	\$ 75,768.02
Unibank Fire Online	
Collections	\$ 21,421.82
Unibank Deputy Collector	\$ 48,999.52
GermainTrust	\$ 5,392.49
Clapp Trust	\$ 88,742.48
OBEP Trust	\$ 17,851.25
MMDT Charity	\$ 7,153.00
MMDT Veterans Trust	\$ 2,250.27
MMDT Stabilization Fund	\$ 51,361.80
Balance June 30, 2017	\$ 1,772,248.63
Interest Earned	\$ 5,676.90

Tax Title Account			
Name	Balance due as of	6/30/2017	
Conz, James	271 Northwest Rd	\$	20,138.11
Conz, James	Northwest Rd	\$	497.33
Creek, Von & Jean	105 Reservoir Rd	\$	15,901.29
Kellogg, Loretta	225 Northwest Rd	\$	15,586.34
Levesque, Abbie, M	Reservoir Rd	\$	262.45
Moore, Abbie, Aloisi	North Rd	\$	2,423.69
Progressive Structures	Northwest Rd	\$	5,553.21
Young, Mark	41 Loudville Rd	\$	42,207.33
Young, Mark	Loudville Rd	\$	1,542.04
		\$	104,111.79

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia W. Cotton, Treasurer

**REPORT OF THE
TOWN ACCOUNTANT
July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017**

RECEIPTS

TAXES

Property	4,330,066.60	
Motor Vehicle Excise	256,666.28	
Tax Liens	18,845.21	
Payments In Lieu of Taxes	17,460.94	
Rollback Taxes	84.19	
Interest and Penalties on Taxes	37,871.25	4,660,994.47

COMM MASS

Local Aid/Lottery UGGA	139,329.00	
Exemptions	11,681.00	
PILOT	1,003.00	
Chapter 70 Schools	465,470.00	
Charter School Reimbursement	5,796.00	
Vocational Transportation	3,551.00	
State Aid to Libraries	2,989.42	
Veterans Reimbursements	7,263.04	
Extended Polling Hours	482.00	
Medical Records	100.00	
Medicaid	13,587.48	651,251.94

MISC GRANTS AND GIFTS

COA – State	4,973.00	
CCC DLTA Grant	9,430.00	
Cultural Council	4,439.67	
IT Continuity	9,430.00	
Library Gifts	3,434.04	
Library Building Gift	42.66	
DEP Recycling Grant	3,100.00	34,849.37

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Licenses Selectboard	345.00
Plumbing Fees	3,760.00
Electrical Fees	3,355.00
Building Permits	15,888.00
Planning Board	520.00
Zoning Permits	80.00
Library	151.90

Tax Collector Fees	5,975.00	
HCOG Solar Credits	6,655.81	
Other Departmental	425.00	
Mark & Clear	800.00	
Town Clerk Fees	2,809.90	
Reimburse Group Health Ins	15,066.78	
Westfield State		
Reimburse Medicare Westfield State	1,010.52	
Miscellaneous Receipts	7,688.31	64,531.22

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Tanker Truck Grant	170,667.00	
Fire Fighter's Safety Grant	15,429.00	
Ambulance Receipts Reserved	11,895.85	197,991.85

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Motor Vehicle Fines	825.00	
Fines Other	470.00	
Gun Permits	1,637.50	2,932.50

BOARD OF HEALTH

Licenses & Permits, Fees	9,100.00	
Transfer Station Fees	45,237.00	54,337.00

REVOLVING FUNDS

Fire Dept. Revolving Fund	2,495.00	
Septic Repayment	730.07	
Cemetery Revolving Fund	4,681.00	7,906.07

SCHOOL FUNDS

Misc Reimbursements to Elementary
School:

Reimburse Summer School	10,264.06	
Westfield State ...Finnie	69,691.00	
Erate	2,733.14	
Misc Grants and Reimbursements	15,620.50	98,308.70
Choice Reimbursement		141,356.00
Extra Relief Circuit Breaker		17,125.00
GAPS/ REAPS Grant		20,891.00
Preschool		31,441.00
Yellow School Bus		200.00
HCGIT Wellness Grant		600.00
School AED Gift		1,800.00
Building Use		1,350.00

School Lunch	25,534.06	338,605.76
HIGHWAY		
Chapter 90	237,397.58	
Highway Misc.	778.10	238,175.68
TRUST		
Clapp Trust	269.42	
St. Germain Memorial Trust	15.94	
OPEB Trust	35.55	320.91
INTEREST		
On General Fund	4,115.72	
On Charity Funds	33.01	
On Cemetery Funds	32.21	
On Veterans Trust	20.49	
On Stabilization	342.76	4,544.19
AGENCY		
Deputy Collector Fees	4,233.00	
Meals Tax	47.53	
Gun Permits	4,812.50	
Police Outside Detail	10,595.00	
Payroll Deductions	636,789.31	656,477.34
TOTAL RECEIPTS		6,912,918.30
NON-APPROPRIATION EXPENDITURES		
TAX REFUNDS		
Property Tax	10,668.28	
Motor Vehicle Excise	3,169.27	13,837.55
AGENCY		
Deputy Collector Fees	4,233.00	
Meals Tax	51.53	
Gun Permits	5,562.50	
Police Detail	10,275.00	
Payroll Deductions	634,941.38	655,063.41
SCHOOL REVOLVING FUNDS & GRANTS		
REAPS grant	16,370.06	
Kindergarten Enhancement	1,088.79	

Extra Relief SPED Circuit Breaker	10,949.32	
Eton City Arts Grant	71.21	
Preschool	42,886.12	
School Choice	106,840.61	
School Lunch	25,702.90	
HCGIT Wellness Grant	534.98	
Yellow School Bus	200.00	
School AED Gift	1,649.00	206,292.99

SPECIAL REVOLVING FUNDS & GRANTS

Cemetery Revolving	3,428.43	
Clapp Fund	4,255.00	
Cultural Council	3,924.00	
Council on Aging State	4,789.29	
Fire Dept. Revolving	2,151.13	
Fire Fighter's Safety Grants	15,429.00	
MEMA EMPG Grant	2,460.00	
Chapter 90 Highway Funds	236,520.09	
Northwest Rd Culvert Grant	199,980.00	
Library Gifts	2,411.03	
Library Building Gift	1,685.88	
State Aid to Library	3,011.58	
Safe Grant 2013	53.01	
Safe Grant 2014	705.86	
Town Hall Gifts	114.70	
IT Continuity	9,430.00	490,349.00

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Fire Tank Truck	255,413.00	255,413.00
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TOTAL Non-Appropriation **1,620,955.95**

APPROPRIATION EXPENDITURES

	BUDGETED	SPENT
<u>General Government</u>		
Moderator	475.00	0.00
Selectboard Salary	4,279.00	4,279.00
Selectboard Expense	5,834.95	5,612.39
Selectboard FY16 Encumbrance	299.28	299.28
IT Support	7,898.20	7,898.20
Administrative Assistant	31,518.00	31,518.00
Accounting Officer Salary	15,075.00	15,075.00
Accounting Officer Expense	3,865.00	3,607.38

Independent Audit	21,000.00	13,500.00	
Treasurer Salary	15,075.00	15,075.00	
Treasurer Expense	5,600.00	5,421.14	
Assessor Salary	8,097.00	8,097.00	
Assessor Expense	11,600.00	8,446.55	
Assessor Assistant	14,538.00	14,538.00	
Tax Collector Salary	15,075.00	15,075.00	
Tax Collector Expense	15,132.83	15,122.83	
Tax Taking Expense	5,398.47	5,385.21	
Town Clerk Salary	12,923.00	12,923.00	
Town Clerk Expense	5,782.00	4,702.27	
Clerk Board of Registrars	100.00	100.00	
Counsel Fees	32,000.00	27,583.44	
Counsel Fees FY16 Encumbrance	4,269.39	4,269.39	
Conservation Commission	225.00	210.00	
Planning Board	300.00	238.42	
Zoning Board of Appeals	600.00	0.00	
Town Offices	27,692.00	27,624.66	
Town Flag	600.00	460.10	
Town Hall Exterior Paint	30,000.00	30,000.00	277,061.26

Protection of Persons & Property

Police Chief	28,270.00	28,270.00	
Police Department	53,935.00	51,967.69	
Fire Chief	11,313.00	11,313.00	
Fire Department	37,765.00	37,633.01	
Protective Gear Grant Match	5,000.00	5,000.00	
Public Safety Complex	14,925.00	8,407.44	
Emergency Management Dir.	441.00	441.00	
Emergency Medical Services	17,000.00	11,791.09	
Inspector Compensation	4,200.00	4,172.50	
Building Insp/Commissioner Salary	12,390.00	12,390.00	
Inspector Expense	1,375.00	569.24	
Tree Warden	625.00	625.00	
Tree Warden Expense	2,000.00	1,655.00	
Animal Control Officer Salary	1,665.00	1,665.00	
Animal Control Officer Expense	700.00	177.35	176,077.32

Education

School Committee	1,455.00	720.00	
Elementary School	1,583,294.00	1,462,231.99	
Elementary School FY16 Encumbrance	57,367.13	51,830.35	

Hampshire Regional	1,097,496.00	1,097,496.00	
Hampshire Regional Debt	69,782.00	69,782.00	
School Choice Assessment	46,027.00	46,782.00	
Charter School Assessment	89,532.00	94,429.00	
Vocational Tuition	341,900.00	320,373.12	
Vocational Transportation	55,837.00	55,837.00	
Voc. Transportation FY16 Encumbrance	5,583.78	5,583.78	3,205,065.24

Public Works

Highway Administration	4,750.00	4,388.09	
Highway Salaries	215,294.00	213,396.65	
Highway Materials	89,000.00	85,462.44	
Snow Removal	126,410.17	126,410.17	
Road Machinery	41,701.00	34,092.37	
Road Machinery FY16 Encumbrance	339.11	339.11	
Road Machinery Fuel	43,050.00	22,823.75	
Road Machinery Buildings	29,887.00	17,740.51	
Transfer Station	55,550.00	49,715.36	
Transfer Station FY16 Encumbrance	125.00	125.00	
Cemetery Salary	6,190.00	6,190.00	560,683.45

Human Services

Board of Health Salary	375.00	250.00	
Board of Health Expense	500.00	0.00	
Hilltown Resource Mgt. Coop	5,446.00	5,445.20	
Foothills Health District	16,507.00	16,506.09	
Animal Inspector Salary	800.00	800.00	
Council on Aging	3,025.00	2,185.35	
COA Coordinator	2,336.00	2,335.96	
Veterans Agent	1,696.00	1,696.00	
Veterans Expense	3,500.00	1,659.53	30,878.13

Culture & Recreation

Library	89,544.00	83,128.84	
Library FY16 Encumbrance	41.99	41.99	
Historical Commission	1,287.18	1,233.83	
Memorial Day	200.00	58.00	
Cultural Council	75.00	19.13	84,481.79

Debt

Highway Building/Firetruck	152,000.00	152,000.00	
Highway Truck/School Roof	83,000.00	83,000.00	

Interest Long Term Debt	9,312.00	9,311.40	244,311.40
<u>Intergovernmental</u>			
Hampshire Council of Governments	761.00	760.40	
State Assessments: Air Pollution	508.00	508.00	
RMV Surcharge	640.00	1,000.00	
Regional Transit	170.00	170.00	
STRAP	12,000.00	12,000.00	
Pioneer Valley Planning Comm.	247.08	247.08	14,685.48
<u>Unclassified</u>			
Hampshire County Retirement	165,568.00	162,489.00	
Unemployment	9,000.00	0.00	
Group Health Insurance	348,500.00	330,963.01	
Medicare	28,375.00	24,540.42	
Insurance & Bonds	82,550.00	80,488.69	598,481.12
TOTAL APPROPRIATION			
EXPENDITURES	5,465,390.56	5,191,725.19	
 GRAND TOTAL ALL EXPENDITURES			6,812,681.14

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Boudreau, Town Accountant

Combined Balance Sheet
All Funds and Account Groups
June 30, 2017

	<u>Governmental Funds</u>			<u>Fiduciary Funds</u>	<u>Account Group</u>	
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	<u>Trust and Agency</u>	<u>Long-Term Debt</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Cash	\$ 1,060,798	\$ 519,178		\$ 192,273	\$ -	\$ 1,772,249
Taxes Receivable:						
Real property	110,231					110,231
Personal property	7,196					7,196
Tax liens	104,112					104,112
Other Receivables:						
Motor vehicle and other excise	28,066					28,066
RollBack Tax	8,425					8,425
Commonwealth of Massachusetts- Highway		86,526				86,526
Amounts to be Provided for Retirement						
of Long-Term Debt	-	-	-	-	485,000	485,000
Total Assets	\$ 1,318,827	\$ 605,704	\$ -	\$ 192,273	\$ 485,000	\$ 2,601,805

Liabilities and Fund Balances

Liabilities:				
Accrued Payroll	\$ 127,767	\$ 21,559		\$ 149,326
Deferred revenue -Property	73,230			73,230
Deferred revenue - Tax Liens	104,112			104,112
Deferred revenue - MVE	28,066			28,066
Deferred revenue - Rollback	8,425			8,425
Allowance for abatements	44,197			44,197
Deferred revenue - Highway		86,526		86,526
Long-term debt			485,000	485,000
Total Liabilities	385,797	108,085	-	978,882
Fund Balances:				
Reserved:				
Continue Appropriations	7,500			7,500
Encumbrances	74,413			74,413
Expenditures	467,000			467,000
Unreserved:				
Designated		497,620	192,273	689,893
Undesignated	384,117			384,117
Total Fund Balances	933,030	497,620	-	1,622,923
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$ 1,318,827	\$ 605,704	\$ -	\$ 2,601,805

REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR AS OF JUNE 30, 2017

	Real Estate Balances as of June 30, 2017	Personal Property Balances as of June 30, 2017	Motor Vehicle Balances as of June 30, 2017
2017	\$80,819.10	\$4,008.16	\$17,721.48
2016	\$23,047.17	\$340.20	\$2,274.68
2015	\$3,920.57	-	\$476.46
2014	\$49.03	-	\$1,332.67
2013	-	-	\$2,467.11
2012	-	-	\$649.72
2011	-	-	\$730.21
Prior Yrs.	\$(0.32)	\$2,847.64	\$2,413.46
TOTAL	\$107,835.55	\$7196.00	\$28,065.79

GRAND TOTAL: \$143,097.34

All payments are due on the quarterly system, with due dates as follows:

1st quarter - August 1

2nd quarter - November 1

3rd quarter - February 1

4th quarter - May 1

Bills are mailed quarterly, one month before due date.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Marie Knox, Tax Collector

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

In 2017, the Board of Assessors recorded 60 property transfers. Also, the Board approved a total of 21 personal exemptions, 2 real estate abatements and 62 motor vehicle excise abatements.

Fiscal year 2018 was an interim recertification year for the Town of Westhampton. The State of Massachusetts, Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services is involved in this process. They reviewed and then certified the Town's values in December 2017.

Westhampton's assessed values for Fiscal Year 2018 are

Real Estate - \$225,144,338

Personal Property - \$5,169,923

Exempt - \$28,328,400

The tax rate was certified by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue in December 2017 for fiscal year 2018 at \$19.43 per \$1000 of value.

Assessor business can be transacted Monday & Wednesday mornings from 9-12 and the Board of Assessors meets Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex.

We can be reached at 413-203-3082 or westhamptonassessors@comcast.net

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Morrey, Chair
Dolores Thornhill
Sarah Challet

REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board reviewed and approved just a few more building lots and building permit applications than last year. The Real Estate and building market seems to be slightly improving.

The Board approved a kennel with the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark T. Schwallie, Chair

REPORT OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The 2017 Zoning Board of Appeals was made up of Leo Aloisi, Chair, John Kelsey, Shirley Morrigan, Clerk, Wayne Parks, and Richard Tracy. Steve St. Marie served as an Associate Member.

Our Board has room for two more Associate Members and would welcome the services of people willing to analyze and study the cases which come before this Board. Please send your letters of interest to the Selectboard for consideration.

The ZBA generally meets on the second Tuesday of the month in the Town Hall Annex at 3 South Road from 7:00 PM to completion. Its agendas are posted on the town's Web site, and the public is welcome to attend any open meeting of the ZBA. The ZBA signs off on building permit requests, answers residents' questions, explains the Zoning Bylaws, and tries to help Westhampton residents keep their property in compliance with the rules. When necessary the ZBA holds public hearings to consider requests for Special Permits or Variances or an appeal of an aggrieved party.

In 2017, the ZBA evaluated and acted on one request for a finding regarding the issuance of a building permit, one request for a Special Permit with Site Plan Approval, and one request for a variance. All of these matters had Public Hearings, as described below.

1. The ZBA held a two-session public hearing on an appeal filed by Ms. M. Powers which contested the issuance of a building permit to Ms. Amber Kellogg and Mr. Michael Barbeau for the installation of a modular home at 109 Northwest Road, Westhampton. The hearing sessions occurred on July 19, 2017 and August 2, 2017, and the decision was issued on August 9, 2017. The ZBA found that the Building Inspector, in relying on his interpretation of Chapter 40A, Section 6, Paragraph 4 and the single lot exemption, was in error in issuing a building permit to Amber Kellogg and Michael Barbeau for property located at 109 Northwest Road.

2. A two-session public hearing of the ZBA and the Planning Board was held on November 14, 2017 and December 12, 2017 on Application No. SP 202 for a Special Permit with Site Plan Approval, submitted by Ms. Alison Smith for a commercial kennel located at 250 Southampton Road, Westhampton. On November 14, 2017, the Planning Board made the following finding: to accept the various diagrams and other documents submitted as part of the application process for compliance with site plan requirements related to Application No. SP 202. The ZBA made the following finding on December 12, 2017: that the proposed project will constitute a suitable development and is in compliance with the criteria set forth in the Zoning Bylaws [6.35-6.36]. The decision granting the Special Permit and Site Plan Approval was filed with the Town Clerk on December 15, 2017.

3. A public hearing was held on November 28, 2017 for Application #208, from Ms. Amber Kellogg and Mr. Michael Barbeau, who sought a Variance for Frontage Setback at 109 Northwest Road, Westhampton. The application for a Variance was denied. The decision was filed with the Town Clerk on December 15, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley P. Morrigan, Clerk

REPORT OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR

☺ There were 119 building permits issued in 2017 with \$41,612.89 collected in fees for projects valued at \$5,400,347.78

Permit Classification	Project Value	No.
Additions	147,250	2
Annual Inspections (not bp)	0	2
Barns/Sheds/Garages/Carport	299,783	10
Decks/Porches/Steps	29,300	4
Demo Misc	65,380	3
Foundations	27,000	2
HVAC	26,395	2
Insulation/Weatherization	21,664	9
Pellet/Wood Stoves	31,342	12
Renovations	1,992,300	13
Repairs	16,790	4
Roofs	175,924	20
Solar	529,146	19
Siding	20,000	3
Single Family Residences	1,957,656	7
Windows/Doors	60,418	7

Note: Building permits and inspections are for your protection and safety to help uphold minimum building standards, please make sure your contractor is licensed, has a permit, and calls for inspections.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Quinlan, Building Inspector

REPORT OF THE PLUMBING INSPECTOR

During the year 2017 the Plumbing Inspector's office received twenty-three permit applications. Thirteen were for plumbing work and nine for gas inspections. Four of the permits were for new homes and ten were for remodeling.

A total of \$1,655.00 was collected for permits and fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Pichette, Plumbing Inspector

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

As of December 31, 2017 members and their respective terms were:

Mary Cleary	Member	2018
Joe Pipczynski	Member	2018
Sacheverell Seney	Secretary	2018
Vacant		2018
Peter Montague	Member	2019
Steven Gagne	Member	2019
Stephen Holt	Member	2019
Thomas M. Cleary, Jr.	Chair	2020
Jacqueline Brodeur	Member	2020
Vacant		2020

The Finance Committee's duties are to review department budget requests, prepare the town's annual budget and serve as the town's fiscal advisory body.

Due to favorable pricing of petroleum products, which is likely to reverse in future years, several departments were able to underspend their budgets and return money to the town for the year ended June 30, 2017.

The committee's goals for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017, were to prepare a budget that addressed current needs and looked forward to provide a better credit rating for the town should debt financing be sought; provide a reserve for unforeseen future needs; and worked toward stabilizing the tax rate for both recurring expenses as well as expenses for larger capital purchases.

To work toward these goals the committee recommended the funding of a stabilization fund which was approved at Town Meeting in 2017 the amount of \$315,000.

The committee has implemented a forward-looking process to work with town departments to anticipate capital needs over the next 10 years so that resources can be allocated on a rotating basis. The Selectboard and Capital Planning Committee have been instrumental in preparing this information and sharing it with the Finance Committee and members of the public at our open meetings, which all are encouraged to attend.

Additionally, the committee is tasked with reviewing requests from various town departments for additional funding related to unforeseen events. The following transfers were approved during the calendar year 2017:

Tax-Taking Expense	1,000.00
Tax Collector Expense	312.83
Counsel Fees	2,000.00
Counsel Fees	10,000.00
IT Support	298.20
Selectboard Expenses	1,000.00
Selectboard Expenses	134.95
Inspector Compensation	600.00

Historical	34.00
Historical	53.18
Vocational Education	17.00
HRMC	40.00

We would like to thank the town departments and committees for understanding the fiscal constraints that exist and submitting budgets reflecting those limits.

We welcome residents' input and invite you to attend the meetings of the Finance Committee and consider becoming a member of the committee. We look to the townspeople to see how to best allocate our resources, and joining this committee allows you the opportunity to listen and voice what you feel is best for our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas M. Cleary, Jr., Chair

REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT 2017

In August, Jerry Ostrowski retired from the Department after working here for 22 years. Jerry was a very dependable and capable employee. He had the knack for being able to make us all laugh with imitations of town folks and celebrities. We wish Jerry a long, healthy and happy retirement.

Jerry's position was advertised, and on August 7, 2017, Alex Antosz started with the Department. At the time of this writing, he has passed his probationary period and has been made a permanent employee. We look forward to him being with the Department for a long, long time.

The winter of 2016– 2017 seemed to be a typical winter. There were no major storms, but a good number of average size snow and ice storms. A total of \$85,000 was appropriated in the Snow Removal account and a total of \$126,410.00 was spent.

In the spring all paved roads and parking lots were swept, and during the summer all catch basins were checked and cleaned as needed.

Beavers

At the Northwest Road site, this year the beavers moved into the downstream side of the road, and built two dams and a lodge. Throughout the summer and fall the water was backed up high enough so the culvert under Northwest Road was filled to capacity. This could not be allowed throughout the winter, so the beavers were trapped and the water level lowered.

Chapter 90 Projects

Black Top

Sections of the following two roads were overlaid with hot mix asphalt: Reservoir Road from East Shore Road to the intersection with Northwest Road, and Chesterfield Road from Brewer Brook (house #116) to the top of Sand Hill (house #246), for a total of 1.5 miles at a cost of \$138,950.00

Oil and Stone

Northwest Road from house # 231 to the Chesterfield town line; Southampton Road from North Road to Stage Road, including the triangle; Mine Road entire length. Total of 2.3 miles at total cost of \$73,952.00.

Crack Seal

The entire length of South Road was crack sealed; a total of 1.3 miles at total cost of \$29,880.00.

Other Projects

Drainage

North Road: two catch basins and 260 feet of sub-drain were installed across from the library.

Perry Hill Road: five catch basins and 1100 feet of sub-drain were installed from house #19 to the intersection with North Road.

Previously, along both of these sections, there had been a deep open ditch close to the pavement. With the completed work, the water table is lowered and storm water is captured and run through the sub-drain, doing away with a need for a deep open ditch next to the pavement. It was always my fear that a school bus would end up in one of these ditches.

Kings Highway Bridge – W27-005

The project manager with StanTec, who is under contract with Mass Department of Transportation (D.O.T.) to do the design work for this bridge, informs me that they will be submitting a type study to the Boston bridge section for review in mid-April 2018. This is the first major submission to D.O.T., with many more to follow before the design is approved. As mentioned in last year's report, this project is still on the schedule to be advertised in 2020.

Buildings

In the fall, we took the time to put a fresh coat of paint on the salt shed, as well as buildings at the transfer station. This was made easier thanks to Phil Dowling, who outfitted us with a commercial paint sprayer at no cost.

Vehicles

We continue to do all the regular maintenance, as well as the majority of all repair work on all of our vehicles. Very seldom do we need to call on a professional for help. This makes me proud to have the crew that I have on the Department, and it also saves money.

I thank Bill, Scott and Alex for the hard work and dedication that they put into making this department run smoothly.

Respectfully submitted,

David Blakesley,
Highway Superintendent

REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Westhampton Fire Department is an all-volunteer organizations consisting of twenty-eight Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) that respond to numerous emergency calls throughout the year. All personnel are alerted to an emergency in town through a paging system that provides the emergency responders with the location and nature of the call. Emergency personnel then stop what they are doing to respond to the Fire Station to retrieve equipment and vehicles needed for the response. We have continually educated people throughout the community that given the current type of volunteer organization the town has in place, there is a possibility that someone may have an emergency and not get any response from any member of the Westhampton Fire Department or Westhampton EMS. Additionally, we have informed the public that, if we do have personnel that can respond, from the time of notification for an emergency, to the time we arrive on the scene and begin mitigation efforts, could be anywhere from 10-15 minutes depending on the location in town that the emergency occurred. This time frame is within the normal response time based on Call/Volunteer Departments as outlined in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1720 Standard.

Like many organizations, the fire service continues to face many challenges. Recruitment of new personnel continues to be a major concern for many small-volunteer organizations. The Westhampton Fire Department is always looking for anyone willing to make the commitment and join the Department so we can maintain this active organization. Ongoing training and education is a significant focus in the fire service based on the need to keep up with changing technologies and hazards encountered by our personnel. The safety of all our personnel and mutual aid partners has always been paramount and a primary focus of our mission. Throughout the year, personnel are expected to attend local, county, state, or federal training programs to remain competent and operate safely during any emergency.

Based on the volunteer nature of the fire department, many preventative measures have been explored or implemented to help maintain this type of organization. Open burning is only allowed on Saturdays or Sundays with a valid permit in order to have a higher probability that personnel will be home during these hours of burning. Residential sprinklers have been required previously in subdivisions here in town as well as promoted during any new construction projects. Fire extinguisher training programs have been offered and encouraged for all residents in town to help everyone understand how to safely operate these devices. Finally, smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector installation projects have been implemented and undertaken in collaboration with other groups throughout the town to help increase the safety of our residents. These are just a few examples of how we have tried to increase the safety of all our residents while maintaining a volunteer organization.

The Westhampton Fire Department had another busy year in 2017 providing emergency services to the community. The Department responded to two-hundred and ten calls for service this year. These calls for service were for fire suppression, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, carbon monoxide alarm activations, motor vehicle accidents, utility wires down, residential fire alarm activations, inspections and many more.

2017 emergency calls breakdown

MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	11	5.24%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	123	58.57%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	17	8.10%
Service Call	45	21.43%
Good Intent Call	3	1.43%
False Alarm & False Call	11	5.24%
TOTAL	210	100.00%

In addition to the emergency responses, personnel commit numerous hours to training and other activities for the community. Continual training is a critical component for all our members in order to keep them safe and remain competent in their skill sets throughout the year. In 2017, members in our organization completed over 1,177 hours of training. Part of this training included having the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy come to Westhampton with their live fire mobile training unit for the personnel. This training prop provided realistic scenarios for all members to practice their fire suppression training.

The Department's fleet of apparatus consists of a 2004 Engine, 1986 Engine, 2017 Tanker Truck, 2002 Brush Truck, 2009 Rescue Truck, 2009 Mobile Air trailer with a light tower and generator, and a 1996 ambulance. All vehicles are checked by Department personnel on a weekly basis to ensure a state of operational readiness and reliability. All of these vehicles have service completed by certified Emergency Vehicle Technicians throughout the year to prolong the expected life-span of the vehicles and improve the safety during emergency responses. Again this year, we had both Engines and the Tanker professionally pump-tested to ensure adequate pump performance as determined by the manufactures. These testing procedures are also reflected in the Department's Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating and meet the requirements set by National Standards pertaining to Fire Apparatus.

The Department had all of the fire hose pressure tested to ensure adequate operational effectiveness. National Standards recommend that this is done once a year, and in addition, it is reflected in the ISO ratings that this testing procedure be done to minimize the insurance rates in Town. More important, to ensure the safety of all members utilizing fire hose during operational procedures, it is our responsibility that they are provided with equipment that is safe and functioning to the highest standards. The testing revealed that the Department did have fire hose in service that did not pass the required pressure rating. These were removed from service and replaced with some of the spare hose that was also tested and passed the requirements. These testing requirements demonstrated that this was a project that was needed and should be continued each year to help ensure that the integrity and operational capacity of the equipment is maintained. We also had all of our ground ladders tested to the National Standards, ensuring they could meet the performance requirements during emergency operations. All of these projects are critical to properly maintaining all of the equipment and ensuring the highest degree of safety for our personnel utilizing these resources.

The fire department continues to provide emergency medical transport services at the basic life support level to the community. The system is structured so a private ambulance service, Pioneer Valley Ambulance, provides transportation between the hours of midnight and 4PM, and

the Westhampton Fire Department provides transportation between the hours of 4PM and midnight. These times allow for the volunteers to get home from work, school, etc. and provide coverage as needed when calls come in. All EMT's will continue to respond 24 hours a day, seven days a week, but will respond in their personal vehicles during those off hours. In 2017, the ambulance service transported twenty-four patients.

In fiscal year 2015, prior to the town providing EMS transport services, the town allocated \$8,550 for expenses for the fiscal year. These funds were used to purchase equipment and supplies such as defibrillator pads, certifications cards, training, and EMS disposable equipment. In fiscal year 2016, the first year we provided EMS transport services, the town allocated \$17,000 for these operations. Ambulance receipts collected for that fiscal year were \$8,267. The Department also turned back \$1,762 in used funds for that same fiscal year. Total EMS expenditures for fiscal year 2016 for full paramedic service to the Town of Westhampton was \$6,971 (which is less than what was used prior to Westhampton not doing the ambulance service and more importantly does not take into consideration the increase in service with this transport capability). Finally, prior to Westhampton not having an ambulance, the Town was being charged \$18,600 just to provide service on top of our own expenditures mentioned previously and the town was not able to recover any costs to help offset the cost for the services that were provided. Below is a chart outlining the costs that communities of similar size pay for the same type of emergency services (numbers based on FY 18 figures):

Town	Pop.	Fire Budget	EMS budget	Fire Chief Salary	Total Cost
Leverett	1,851	\$65,689.00	\$27,200.00	\$19,904.00	\$112,793.00
Pelham	1,321	\$64,599.00	\$30,000.00	\$25,393.00	\$119,992.00
Shutesbury	1,756	\$53,299.00	\$28,300.00	\$53,000.00	\$134,599.00
Russell	1,769	\$107,197.00	\$33,892.00	\$28,000.00	\$169,089.00
Chesterfield	1,247	\$20,000.00	\$63,537.00	\$6,000.00	\$89,537.00
Westhampton	1,586	\$42,200.00	\$17,000.00	\$11,500.00	\$70,700.00
Average	1,588	\$58,830.67	\$33,321.50	\$23,966.17	\$116,118.33

No revenue collections for any of these other communities due to no ambulance transports

Members of the Department are continuing to work with the Elementary School and their staff as well as staff at Hampshire Regional High School (HRHS) to deliver public education and fire safety lessons to the Students and teachers. This education is done in the form of classroom

presentations and demonstrations as well as public education programs at Town events such as the Fall Festival. This past year, we worked with staff at HRHS to teach them the proper procedures for utilizing a fire extinguisher. This provided them the knowledge and awareness to act safely in the event of a fire. EMT's also worked with students and staff at HRHS teaching them CPR and the use of a defibrillator. These types of programs continue to be an extremely valuable and we look forward to our continued collaboration with the school Administration.

The Department continues to rely heavily on its website to help with the communications throughout the community. We have transitioned all of our burning permits and inspections to this online forum to make it more convenient for anyone to request or schedule these and get immediate feedback. For a Department that is an all volunteer, we have already seen a dramatic improvement in communication both externally and internally with our members. We hope to continually make improvements such as this in the future to better service all the residents as efficiently as possible.

The Town continues to have a mass notification system to alert all Town residents for any emergent needs. This system is called CodeRED and provides the Town the ability to call all landlines, or any other cell phone numbers, text message, or email individuals on the alert. The intent of this type of system is to improve communication prior to a large scale disaster, or weather related event to provide guidance and direction to the community on things such as expectations of power being restored, opening of warming shelters, and items that individuals are expected to have on their own. We have done two test calls with this system with positive feedback from the system and the community as a whole. Anyone can sign up for this system by going to the Department website at www.westhamptonfire.org and click on the CodeRED icon on our homepage.

There are a number of capital projects that the Fire Department is going to need input and support on from the community in the immediate future. The largest of these is a need for a new Public Safety Complex to meet the growing demands of the community. The current facility is reaching seventy years old and no longer is able to accommodate the demands placed on the public safety services (Police, Fire, EMS, and Emergency Management). In addition, one of the Engines is thirty years old and has reached its life expectancy. However, no new Engine available will fit in the current facility given the current size and parameters.

All of these items have been forwarded to the Town Capital Improvements Committee with emphasis placed on a new building. We will continue to explore all available funding options to minimize the financial impact on the community, but the conversation needs to continue in order to plan and prepare for vehicles and equipment for the next ten to twenty-five years and a facility that will continue to meet the service demands for the next fifty plus years.

Finally, I'd like to thank all of the personnel at the Department for their continued support and dedication to the Town and the Department. It continues to be an absolute pleasure and honor to work for all of them and be part of an organization that cares so much about their community. The members of the Westhampton Fire Department continue to do much more than respond to emergencies. Throughout the years, they continue to clean residents chimneys each fall, hang the flags on the utility poles in the center of town when needed, get involved in community sponsored events such as the Halloween parade, fill residents swimming pools and the water tanks at the Town Cemetery, install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors, and put up house numbers for residences to help emergency responders find the proper location and

decrease response times. The Westhampton Fire Department is one of the few healthy and vigorous volunteer departments left in the region, and all of the members are very dedicated and proud to serve the residents and community. Thank you and have a safe and healthy year.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher W. Norris,
Fire Chief/Paramedic

REPORT OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER & INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS

In the year 2017 Cara Pease was appointed as Animal Control Officer and nominated as Inspector of Animals by the Selectboard. The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources subsequently accepted the nomination and appointed Cara as Inspector of Animals.

The Inspector of Animals conducts annual farm visits to ensure that animals are in good health and provided with access to food, water, and adequate shelter. A report of the inspections is provided to the state for emergency preparation and disease control. The Inspector also responds to bites of unknown origin, orders rabies testing, and quarantines animals if required.

The Animal Control Officer enforces the state and local laws of the keeping of dogs.

The following is a list of incidents responded to by the Inspector/ACO:

- 2-Missing dogs
- 2-Found dogs returned owners
- 3-Wildlife calls (raccoons)
- 2-Dog bites
- 1-Dog killing chickens
- 1-Alleged neglect
- 2-Quarantines for wounds of unknown origin
- 43 Farm visits were completed in 2017.

Additional information provided on the department webpage at:

<http://www.westhampton-ma.com/animal-control-officer>

Respectfully submitted,

Cara Pease,
Animal Control Officer & Inspector of Animals

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

All in all, calls for service in 2017 remained consistent with the past six years. The anomaly was the housebreaks. Westhampton was not alone in this trend and scourge. This exponential spike taxed the resources of local and state police during long hours of investigations and patrols to protect your property and belongings. Some successes were had in identifying perpetrators and in the recovery of stolen items. Two major factors played a role in this. First, this would not have been possible without the collective efforts of all our regional mutual aid law enforcement partners with special note of the efforts of the Easthampton Police Detective Unit. Countless hours and tenacity lead to some successful outcomes and ultimately the ending of a theft ring that plagued local towns in the county. The second contributing factor was residents being involved and alert to suspicious activity and vehicles. One string of thefts was successfully investigated based on a tip of a town resident who simply reported a suspicious vehicle on the side of the road. This supports what any officer or trooper would tell you that, if you see something, say something. You never know what might help solve or prevent a crime.

As always, the Westhampton Police staff is open to suggestions on how to improve service. We will do our best to adjust staffing, patrols and accessibility to meet the needs, all while being committed staying within the allotted budget.

Two years ago, with the support of the Hampshire Regional School Administration, a part-time School Resource Officer Program was started at the high school. A Westhampton police officer worked and continues to work directly with the students, staff and administration to support the educational initiatives of the district and to further promote a safe and secure atmosphere. To further the successful effort and recognizing the benefits to the town and the district communities, a Southampton officer was hired in the 2017-2018 school year to supplement additional coverage supporting the established programs at the school. We look forward to continuing and growing this vital program for years to come.

The following is a synopsis of reported trends over the past six years:

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Emergency/paged calls totals:	271	253	308	298	330	396
-Arrests/summons	6	6	3	2	2	5
-Disturbances	6	11	16	7	8	9
-Breaking Entry	4	4	5	4	4	17
-Larcenies	6	10	11	5	12	5
-Domestic Calls	7	4	4	3	6	3
-Assault	2	2	5	3	1	1
-Alarms/911 hang up/ misdials	85	41	91	71	81	77
-Suspicious Persons/Vehicles	13	22	7	32	17	43
-Medical/Fire Assists	23	21	47	71	50	21
-Accidents	29	24	34	28	24	30
-Officer Assistance	83	90	82	86	68	86
-Vandalism	12	9	12	9	11	7
Non-emergency calls	578	648	730	620	608	598

If there are any questions, please contact the department at 527-6154. The messages are checked at least twice per day and an officer will return your call. The above number should be used for **non-emergencies**. In case of an emergency, call 911. In the event the town police officers are not available, the Massachusetts State Police will be dispatched from Northampton.

Firearms applications are accepted on the second Wednesday of each month. The application may be downloaded from the town website at www.westhampton-ma.com. This website also offers a variety of links and forms that may be useful as well as email contacts for the department.

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

D. White #671, Chief of Police

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY CARETAKER

Routine clean-up and maintenance completed in early spring and continued throughout the entire season.

Fourteen old tablet headstones had fallen over and were stood up and repaired.

The cemetery equipment is in good working condition.

I recommend tree work be completed along the East fence line to prevent limbs from damaging headstones.

There were:

3 Traditional burials

9 cremations

21 burial lots were acquired.

5 monument foundations were installed.

I would like to thank the Westhampton Highway Department for their assistance in 2017.

I would also like to thank Don Fox and the Westhampton Fire Department for continuing to keep the water tanks filled at the cemetery.

I can be reached by calling (413) 527-6480 or (413) 626-2259.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward H. Thornton,
Cemetery Superintendent

REPORT OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

CAPITAL PLANNING SCHEDULE

DEPARTMENT	Safety Building 20 year	Purchase	Life Exp.	Cost Est.	Loan term	Loan %	2018	2019	2020
Highway Dept.									
	(2007) Loader	2019	10	\$ 135,000	10 years	4.5			
	(2009) Pick Up Truck	2020	10	\$ 70,000	10 years	4.5			
	(1985) Grader	2021	25+	\$ 350,000	10 years	4.5			
	(2006) Dump Truck	2022	15	\$ 275,000	10 years	4.5			
	(2012) Backhoe	2023	15	\$ 150,000	10 years	4.5			
	(1999) Compressor	2029	30	\$ 40,000	10 years				
	(2010) Brush Chipper	2031	20	\$ 70,000	10 years				
	(2016) FWD Dump Truck	2031	15	\$ 300,000	10 years				
	(2015) Asphalt Roller	2035	20	\$ 30,000	10 years				
Elementary School									
	Replace Boilers		20	\$ 60,000	10 years	4.5			
Select Board									
	Town Hall								
	All items previously requested have been moved to a committee based entity to pursue								
	Items included slate roof, painting or siding exterior.								
Police Department									
	Patrol Vehicle (2010) Ford	2020	10	\$ 50,000		4.5			
	Radar Speed sign & trailer**		10	\$ 12,000					
	Digital Dual Band Radios**		5	\$ 12,000					
Fire/EMS Department									
	Safety Complex Design	2019		\$ 300,000		4.5			
	Public Safety Complex	2020	50	\$ 4,140,000	22 years	4.5			
	(1987) Fire Engine	2026	25+	\$ 725,000	10 years	4.5			
	Staff Vehicle?								
COA									
	Senior Center		50						
	Inquiring to see if this could be an add on with the public safety complex								
			TOTALS	\$ 6,719,000			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

DEPARTMENT	Safety Building 20 year	Purchase	Life Exp.	Cost Est.	Loan term	Loan %	2018	2019	2020
Current Debt									
Elem. School Roof & Highway truck				\$ 51,645			\$ 56,400	\$ 142,000	
DPW Bldg & Fire Truck				\$ 148,000			\$ 145,870		
HRHS Reconstruction				\$ 73,977			\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000
Highway Truck				\$ 39,944			\$ 44,652	\$ 110,000	
Highway Truck	delivery 8/2018				10 years	4.5			
			Current Debt	\$ 313,566			\$ 316,922	\$ 322,000	
							\$ 318,940	\$ 324,019	
	TOTAL DEBT								
Stabilization Fund: Balance (2-1-2018)	\$366,643								
Free Cash: (4-1-2018)	\$ 324,369								

REPORT

The Capital Planning Committee collects information on the town's capital projects that cost over \$10,000 and have a useful life of at least 5 years. The spreadsheet below is a departmental list of expected equipment and capital projects for the next 20+ years. The next step in the process is to determine the best way to pay for these expenses. We have been working with the Selectboard, the Finance Committee and Unibank Bond Counsel, Clark Rowell, to stabilize yearly capital payments.

By far the largest project on the list is the construction of a new Safety Complex for the Fire and Police Departments. Informational meetings will be held in May to discuss this project. Knowing that this project was on the horizon, the town has focused on managing and paying down its current capital debt: Highway Garage, the School Roof, Highway Truck and HRHS.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Pipczynski
Maureen Dempsey
David Antosz
Philip Dowling

FOOTHILLS HEALTH DISTRICT HEALTH AGENT

The following is a general breakdown of the many responsibilities handled on a regular basis by your Board of Health and the Health Agent:

- Plan review, permitting and on-site inspections for all septic repairs and installations
- Witnessing of Title 5 inspections and percolation tests
- Housing code inspections and enforcement
- Infectious disease investigation and reporting
- Tobacco regulation permitting and enforcement
- On-site inspections for all beaver conflict permits
- Handling the numerous public health-related questions and complaints
- Restaurant permitting and inspections
- Application review and permitting for all temporary and seasonal food establishments
- Bathing Beach water quality test review
- Recreational Camps for children inspections
- Family Camp inspections
- Inspecting swimming pools
- Attending monthly Board of Health meetings
- Processing fees to the treasurers of each town
- Maintaining current certifications in the various areas required to perform the job.

I may be reached at 268-8404. In-person help must be scheduled in advance. Written messages or mail should be directed to me at PO 447 Haydenville, MA 01039, or via email at VBird113@gmail.com. This past year, the bulk of the field work was performed by Ron Lauren. Ron filled in while I pursued other goals. I wish to thank Ron for his dedication and availability. I am now back as your full time Health Agent I look forward to a productive year in all the Foothills towns. Below is a breakdown of all the Towns and fees received in the Foothills for 2017 and 2016 for comparison. There are some activities that are required that do not generate a fee. Those would be housing issues that often require multiple site visits, and sometime require litigation in housing court, beaver trapping permits, school kitchen inspections and recreational camps for children inspections.

	GOSHEN	WHATELY	WILLIAMSBURG	WESTHAMPTON
PERCS/TITLE 5 INSP	8/16	6/9	5/15	6/18
DWCP/WELL	4/5	13/4	8/3	9/4
FOOD INSP.	4	8	22	4
CAMP INSP.	3	1	0	1
HOUSING COMPLAINTS	3	1	4	3
Total Fees for 2017	\$8,070	\$10,500	\$8,135	\$8,050
Total Fees for 2016	\$6,600	\$10,325	\$7,955	\$9,475

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Bird & Ron Lauren, Health Agents, FHD

REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Members: Brad Morse(Chair), Fred Morrison, Peter Cleary, Elvira Loncto, Bob LaPalme(Secretary), Steve Holt(Associate)

Under The Wetlands Protection Act, eight “interests” are protected by town conservation commissions across the state. Those commissions process thousands of applications every year for permits to do work in and near wetlands, floodplains, banks, riverfront areas, beaches and surface waters, (source: Mass Assn of Conservation Commissions).

The eight important public values subject to protection referred to as “interests” are:

1. Protection of public and private water supply
2. Protection of groundwater supply
3. Flood control
4. Storm damage prevention
5. Prevention of pollution
6. Protection of land containing shellfish
7. Protection of fisheries
8. Protection of wildlife habitat.

What follows is a brief summary of WCC activities for year 2017:

Site visit	6
Public hearing	5
Request for Determination (RDA)	5
Violation concern	1
Cutting plan notification	8
Building permit wetland sign-offs	7

Additional activity:

A conservation restricted property site visit was conducted by coordinator for the WCC , Tom Martin and his group of volunteer site reviewers . The review on site was conducted in November and no unusual activity was noted. Site; Martin Held property.

Conservation Restricted Properties annually monitored by WCC:

- Westhampton Public Library Conservation Restricted Area
- Kestral Land Trust Conservation Restricted Area; Skibiski
- Kestral Land Trust Conservation Restricted; Sarafin
- Hilltown Land Trust Conservation Restricted; Weiss donor
- Kestral Land Trust Conservation Restricted; Glass donor
- Martin-Held property conservation restriction

Respectfully submitted,

Bob LaPalme, Secretary

REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Historical Commission, in 2017, was made up of Richard W. Tracy-chair, Robert Dragon Sr., Steven Brooks, Leonard Day, and Daniel Krug Jr. As treasurer of the Friends of the Blacksmith Shop Museum, Dave Goddard attends our meetings as well. Barbara Pelissier, is the President of the Historical Society, and she often meets with us as well. Our regular meeting date is the third Tuesday of every month except December.

Our support group, The Friends of the Westhampton Blacksmith Shop Museum, is open to anyone who is interested in history, and particularly Westhampton history. A membership fee of \$5.00 per year, or \$50.00 for a lifetime membership, allows you to attend meetings, be involved helping with museum activities, and acting as a docent during large gatherings. This is a great way to become involved, learn Town history, and have fun. We encourage you to become a member. The Museum is open every Sunday, from Memorial Day to The Fall Festival, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. and also by appointment.

We continued improving our display areas so we are able to keep items separated and displayed by category. Each member of our board has expertise in a different area, and we make a good team as we work together. Special events, and special areas of interest to highlight in 2018, are currently being studied. We hope each resident of Westhampton will plan a visit in 2018 to see how interesting your museum is.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard W. Tracy, Chairman

REPORT OF THE WESTHAMPTON PUBLIC LIBRARY 2017

The Westhampton Public Library continues to be a gathering place for community events and programs as well as a place to borrow a wide range of books and other materials. In 2017, 947 residents held library cards. Also in 2017, the library circulated 14,042 books, 1,129 periodicals, 2,124 audio books, 4,808 video materials, and 767 E-books. Participation in the interlibrary loan program allowed for 4,323 items to be lent to other libraries while 3,469 items were received from other libraries for use by Westhampton patrons.

Lynn Blair, the Library Director, along with Hilary Nolan, the Youth Services Librarian, continues to improve the library by offering many programs to the public. In 2017, 97 children's programs were offered with a total attendance of 1,609 children. There were 185 adult programs with a total attendance of 1,495 adults.

Many volunteers also lend their talents to the library. The Trustees would like to thank Victoria Yoshen, Ellice Gonzales, Helene Pajak, Lorraine O'Keefe, Angela Griefen, Sheila Marks and Dan Parker who work inside the library. We would also like to thank the 3 Hampshire High School students who volunteer their time at the library. Tom Martin organizes volunteers to maintain the library grounds. We appreciate all the time and talents these volunteers give to the library.

Sara Smith, a college intern, has been working alongside our Library Director this year and has been organizing some interesting programs for the library. We thank her for her interest and hope her work at the library helps toward getting her degree in library science.

The Trustees also appreciate the work of Jared Brown, custodian, who keeps the library clean and well cared for.

The Friends of the Westhampton Library had 160 members in Fiscal year 2017. This group provides supplemental funding for materials, programs, art exhibits, and concerts. The Friends, along with the Elementary School PTO, sponsor the Westhampton Fall Festival held each year at the library.

Hilary Nolan, Youth Services Librarian, will be retiring in the spring of 2018 and the Trustees want to thank her for the many years of wonderful service she has given the Town of Westhampton and the library.

The Trustee would like the residents of Westhampton to know that our budget, the balances in the library accounts held by the town, and the income generated from the library solar panels can all be found on our website at <https://www.westhampton-ma.com/westhampton-public-library> . This website can also be found as a link on the town website. Anyone without computer access can ask the library director for paper copies. The income from the solar panels goes directly into the town general fund. Since becoming operational, the panels have generated \$ 21,013 for the town.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Trustees:

Maureen Dempsey, Chair

Michelle Nevins, Treasurer

Carol McMurrich, Secretary

Lynn Cooper

Brian Mulvehill

Andrea Belanger

REPORT OF THE CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Westhampton Cultural Council was allotted \$4400 by the Massachusetts Cultural Council to fund grant applications in FY17. \$75.00 was allotted this year for clerical expenses. With our previous balance, including earned interest, and our FY 2017 allotment we were able to grant \$4803. We received 20 grants and approved 15.

The following applications were approved for FY18:

2018 Spring Musical Performance	\$250
Hummingbirds of the Americas	\$250
Puppet Theater Production	\$290
Libraries Rock' Library Program	\$525
World of Owls	\$375
Westhampton Fall Festival	\$250
Old Time Sing-Along	\$375
Field of Dreams Summer and Winter Programs	\$775
Machine de Cirque (field trip)	\$38
Chester Theater Company 2018 Season	\$100
Historic North Hall Arts Festival 2018	\$150
Hilltown Families	\$100
Writing Your Life – A Workshop	\$325
Life in a Changing Climate & Youth Climate Summit	\$400
Watershed Activities	\$600

The Council tries to present a well-balanced distribution of projects/arts/music/theatre in order to benefit all residents of Westhampton. Please contact the Selectboard and/or Robby Armenti or Ann Lewis Co-chairs WCC, if you wish to be appointed to the Council, or with any ideas for future grants and rewards.

Respectfully submitted,

Robby Armenti, Co-chair
Winnie Gorman, Co-chair

Brian Mulvehill
Greg Reynolds

Julie Held
Alison Smith

Jacqueline Brodner
Sheila Marks

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING

The Westhampton Council on Aging consists of a Coordinator and Board of between five and seven (currently five) members, appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The COA maintains an office in the Town Annex. Since Westhampton has no Senior Center, events are hosted at the Westhampton Woods communal room, the Westhampton Congregational Church, and the Library.

In January 2017, the Selectboard appointed town newcomer, Julia Lennen, to the position of Coordinator. The responsibilities of the Coordinator, with the active participation of the Board and volunteers, include: budget planning and administration, program and event management, outreach and newsletter services, coordination with the State for funding and program assistance, and participation in the Northern Hilltown Councils on Aging Consortium.

During 2017, two long-time Board members, Bill Magrone and Shirley Raymond, resigned after years of exemplary service. The current Board members are: Louise Jaisonkowski, Jean Webster, Lillian Baxter, Wendy Blow, and Chuck Horn. Residents interested in joining the Board are encouraged to contact the Coordinator, Julia Lennen, or any Board member. You do not need to be over 60 to join the Board! Board meetings are held on the last Friday of the month.

The Westhampton Council on Aging serves over 500 residents age 60 and older – nearly 30% of the town population. It is the mission of the Council on Aging to evaluate, promote and encourage new and existing activities and services that enhance the quality of life for elders in the Town of Westhampton. With the State “Formula Grant” funds, expenditure funds from the town, federal funds granted to us by Highland Valley Elder Services, support from the Friends of the COA, and our many volunteers, the COA was able to offer a variety of programs and services for our seniors.

COA Newsletter – The COA newsletter, renamed *Moving Forward*, is mailed monthly to over 350 households in Westhampton. Funded through a generous grant from the Massachusetts Department of Elder Services, the 8-page newsletter brings a program calendar, news, photos, informational articles and regional events directly into our homes. Wendy Blow provides editorial services and we are always thankful to our photographers – Connie Dragon and Norm Cotnoir. The newsletter is available electronically on the town website where other items of interest can be found. The Westhampton COA now has a Facebook page to help our computer-savvy residents stay in touch. Events are also listed in the Summit and the Gazette.

Special Programs – This year we hosted a health fair, providing important information about local community programs and assistance with File of Life documents. We also welcomed Lorraine York-Edberg, Western Massachusetts Regional SHINE (Serving Health Information Needs of Everyone) Program Director for an informational session on Medicare open season options. A foot nurse visits every other month providing expert foot care for a modest fee.

Ongoing Programs and Services – Resident computer expert, Bob Miller, continued his well-attended bimonthly computer classes at the Library. Two 10-week chair yoga sessions were appreciated by many participants. Seniors also head to the Library or Westhampton Woods for board games, Scrabble, coffee and chat, knitting club, and more. Our hikes, led by Chuck Horn, have been very popular, even pulling in folks from other towns. Westhampton participates in the “HEN” program (Hilltown Elder Network) that provides light housework and yardwork. Lillian Baxter is our coordinator with HEN. Louise Jaisonkowski coordinates our volunteer transportation program sponsored through FRTA, matching drivers with residents needing rides to nearby appointments and shopping. Jean Webster tracks donated durable goods (walkers, wheelchairs, shower seats) and other supplies for residents needing equipment.

Communal Events – The first Thursday of every month (except August) is our communal lunch at the Congregational Church. Seniors delight in the delicious homemade potluck fare most months; special lunches include pizza, chicken and make-your-own sundaes. Attendees can get their blood pressure checked and sign birthday cards for town residents over 60. Following lunch, seniors enjoy entertainment or informational programs. In 2017, we were entertained and educated by naturalist Fran Ryan, storyteller Davis Bates, the Jazz Bones Octet, Jazz pianist Nick Kachalis with a vocalist and locals Tad and Michele Witowski with their vintage albums. Informational programs by Stavros, an options counseling and services organization that help seniors stay in their home. We also heard from Marguerite Szczawinski from MassEDP, a statewide program for assistance telephone technology. Many of the lunch programs are sponsored by the Westhampton Cultural Council or the Friends of the COA.

Friends of the COA – The Friends of the COA organize outings and raise funds to support trips, memorial gifts, and other activities for town seniors. Funds are raised through the annual pie sale at the Fall Festival and through the generous gifts of residents. In 2017, the Friends organized a luncheon followed by a boat ride down the Connecticut River on the Queen Bea. The Friends also sponsored a trip to the Big E. The Friends also augments the generous Veteran’s Day breakfast at Outlook Farm.

The Council on Aging wishes to “Thank You” not only the Board of Selectmen, the Westhampton Church, and the Library, but also the Friends of the COA and all of the volunteers (especially the cooks, bakers, and dishwashers) who bring joy and companionship to their friends and neighbors. We encourage all residents to volunteer and participate in events and bring forth ideas to make Westhampton a safe and welcoming place for all residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Lennen, COA Coordinator

REPORT OF THE VETERANS’ AGENT

The year 2016 veterans continue to face concerns with health care, education, jobs and guidance. Veterans and Veterans’ family members can get quick answers and guidance from MassVetsAdvisor.org.

Their web site provides avenues to State and Federal areas of need. If you are not computer savvy, then call your Veterans’ Service Officer and we become the front-line in your effort to get info and answers.

Visit the Veterans Agent page of the Westhampton town website for links to MassVetsAdvisor and other informational sites.

Massachusetts General Laws Ch. 115, 108 provides many avenues for benefits for the veterans and their families.

Please contact the Veterans’ Office at 413-427-3054 to set up an appointment.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Henning, Veterans Agent

REPORT OF THE TRIAD COUNCIL

As volunteers, we strive to empower those 60 and better. By harnessing information and providing tools to seniors, Triad promotes our financial, medical, physical safety and well-being. Triad is sponsored by the Hampshire County Sheriff's Dept. and Office of the Northwestern District Attorney. Working with Police Chief David White and Fire Chief Christopher Norris, we assist in implementing Town and County Safety Programs.

TRIAD HISTORY

In 1988, three national groups: AARP, the Association of Chiefs of Police, and National Sheriffs' Association agreed crime prevention needs of older citizens could be best met by a cooperative effort. By signing an agreement, a Triad was formed. The National Assoc. of Triads today requires participation and leadership of three entities: law enforcement, adult volunteers, and community support groups. In 1992, Sheriff R. Garvey began the Hampshire County Triad; the first Westhampton Triad was formed in 1994.

FREE TRIAD PUBLICATIONS

"SPECIAL WISHES": 10 section guide organizes personal affairs, medical directives, will preparation, important documents. Found on Police website

"WHERE TO GET HELP": Directory of local, State, Federal services

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: Pamphlets for Survival Kits, Power Outages, Fire Safety, Storms, Sheltering

HOME SAFETY CHECK LIST: Take preventative actions at your home

FILE OF LIFE: Every Second Counts. Your critical medical info card to keep visible at home, in wallet, car to assist responding emergency personnel

PROJECTS & GOALS

"2018 SAFE ENTRY PROGRAM": Sponsors are Town Fire Dept. & County Sheriff. FREE Home Lock Boxes to seniors will be offered and installed for EMT's and Emergency Services Responders

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS: Promoting programs for safe storage/ disposal to protect our land, water supply, and address the epidemic of addiction

BELLTOWER MONTHLY ARTICLES: Fraud alerts, Caregiving, Health, Safety, Legislative Updates, Downsizing, Housing, Family Communication

COA NEWSLETTER: Aging in Place, Support Services, Safety issues

TOWN DISASTER & EMERGENCY PLANNING: Supporting Town officials by providing information to our senior citizens

FUND RAISING EVENTS: Triad is funded solely by donations. We thank you for your encouragement and support in meeting our yearly goals.

PROMOTING SAFETY & COMMUNICATION

We welcome your participation in reaching our Community goals. Email or call for publications and with questions or concerns you want addressed to 529-9873 or westhamptontriad@comcast.net

Members: David Majercik, Chuck Horn, and Ginny Curtis

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginny Curtis

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent Craig Jurgensen reports that the schools in the Hampshire Regional School District have had another successful and reaffirming year while also addressing the challenges facing public schools and teachers. Collaboration and coordination between and among the District's five schools continues to strengthen. Strengthening the work we do to improve coordination, collaboration, and communication among the schools of the Hampshire Regional Public Schools will support continually improving student performance and welfare, professional development, and instructional strategies to address the needs of all learners continues to be our mission. As a District, and working in partnership with the staff of R. H. Conwell School in Worthington, all of our school staff work conscientiously with commitment and purpose to uphold our responsibility to teach students to read, write, speak well, and calculate. We are also actively embracing our obligation to address "21st Century Learning Skills" including critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration paired with an integration of emerging technologies. The following report highlights some of the programs, events, and activities undertaken to promote excellence in achievement and to support our students' success as life-long learners and responsible participants in our society.

Our District is expansive and complex. We have two regional school districts and four municipal schools (each also being its own district). The District covers over 163 square miles and has an elevation difference of 1220 feet between Southampton and Goshen – attributes that significantly impact decisions to delay or cancel school due to inclement weather. Everyday vans from Norris and HRHS, as well as buses from Durham School Services, Lecrenski's, Van Pool and other vendors, transport our students over 2100 miles. There are 38 school committee members serving on six school committees ranging in size from four to eighteen members.

Teachers and administrators across the state recognize that children are coping with increasingly complex challenges to their behavioral health and social emotional development. Experts cite (and school staff recognize) these stressors to include: peer relationships, academic pressure, higher incidence of children exposed to trauma, social media overload, and threats of gun violence that undermine efforts to keep all students safe from harm. The effects on school success and adjustment can manifest as anxiety, depression, and emotional stress. Our schools are responding by partnering with social service agencies, providing targeted professional development, integrating social emotional learning into the core values of our schools, and evaluating effective programs and curriculum to support our students. It is clear that social emotional learning is as important to student success as more traditional curricular offerings. That said, schools must always be looking forward as we prepare our students to be "21st century learners" with the promise of making them "future ready" lifelong learners. We are often reminded that we are preparing students for jobs and careers that don't exist yet, in some cases jobs that haven't even been imagined. We know, however, that critical thinking, cooperation, communication, and creativity are essential for our students to succeed. To ensure our instructional practice includes these foundational skills, teachers at all levels and throughout all of our schools continually review and revise their curriculum and teaching practices.

School safety and emergency preparedness planning are significant activities for all schools. We are fortunate to be located in communities with responsive local police, fire, ambulance, and

other emergency management personnel. Working together with the Massachusetts State Police, as well as local police and fire departments, our individual schools continue to tighten daily procedures (including those that are in place to protect students on their way to and from school) and improve coordinated District actions to respond to emergencies. We continue to refine our procedures and make changes where necessary including updates to our Medical Emergency Plans and Emergency Operations Procedures. It is regrettable these actions are necessary as they place additional demands on fiscal resources and an already tight academic calendar. However, having to be prepared to respond is a reality we live with, and a responsibility we accept, knowing that we must work to protect our children.

Providing quality educational opportunities for students requires that schools have effective, well-trained, high quality teaching staff. The Grinspoon Excellence in Teaching Awards annually recognize several of the many excellent teachers working in our District. HRHS teacher Tracey Pinkham, Southampton Special Education Teacher Jennifer Sorcinelli, and Williamsburg Fourth Grade Teacher, Nancy Millette were the recipients of the 2017 excellence in teaching awards.

Hiring thoughtful, creative, and effective school leaders continues to be pivotal to our success and the achievement of our students. In addition to hiring outstanding new teachers in 2017, there were a number of significant administrative changes. Mr. Tim Luce was hired to serve as the interim school principal of the Chesterfield-Goshen Regional Elementary School. Prior to assuming the leadership role at New Hingham, Mr. Luce was a school principal in Easthampton and Conway. Kathleen Messmer, was hired as the Interim Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. Kate also serves as the District's grants manager. Kate has a rich, well-traveled, and varied background. Since 2004 she has been an English teacher and Department Chairperson at HRHS. With the departure of the District's special education administrator in August, the 2017-2018 school year started with Patti Szulborski as the interim Director of Pupil Services. When Patti left in November, HRSD's previous Director of Pupil Services, Laurie Farkas, having recently retired from Northampton Public Schools, returned to work with Karen Milch (HRHS Evaluation Team Leader) as interim Directors of Pupil Services. Stephanie Faas and Mary Phelan filled the Nurse Leader/Health Coordinator position.

Our work together in the schools and communities is complex, sometimes overwhelming, and yet unquestionably essential and rewarding. Together we make a positive difference in the lives of our students, their families, and the communities in which we work. We are increasingly coming together as a "Hampshire Regional Community" and engaging in a shared and coordinated commitment for improving the education we provide to our children. I am very proud of the work our teachers, support staff, and administrators have done to enhance learning opportunities and achievement outcomes for all students. I encourage you to visit the individual school's or Superintendent's website (www.hr-k12.org) for current news and information about our students and District activities, as well as a detailed explanation of school budget development. School Committee meeting agendas and minutes can also be found here. The website will also provide you with links to individual school websites and to useful information from numerous resources. I also recommend the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's website for data about individual schools and school districts, as well as guidance on educational initiatives and news. Whenever you have a question or wish to become involved in your community schools, please call me or the principal of your local school.

Thank you for your support and commitment to your Hampshire Regional public schools.

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig Jurgensen, Superintendent of Schools

REPORT OF THE HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

Because of the commitment, hard work, and collective vision of the Hampshire Regional High School community, students at Hampshire Regional are thriving in a safe and positive environment. We have continued to fine tune the program offerings at Hampshire to ensure that our students are ready to meet the varied demands of college and career by the time they graduate from HRHS.

In the spring of 2017, teachers and staff engaged in a meaningful professional development series offered by Ken Pransky on “Motivation, the Limbic System and Learning.” This topic initiated conversations on how students learn best when they feel safe and when they see a meaningful connection between the lesson and their lives. Because of this, teachers pushed for additional collaboration time to create engaging lessons and to develop meaningful units for the students. This theme was bridged to the following year’s professional development series, where teachers selected a topic of interest for the year, including growth mindset, collaboration, community building, technology, project-based learning, supporting students with anxiety or depression, and building relationships. Program leaders also worked to develop some new in-house credit recovery options to provide additional opportunities for students to earn back lost credit from failed classes. This program was piloted in the fall of 2017.

Still mourning the loss of their classmate, Thomas Bisbee, who died in 2016 from cardiac arrest, students organized a cardiac screening opportunity in partnership with The Kev’s Foundation on May 12. The screening gave students the chance to consult with a cardiologist and provided them hands-on CPR training and relevant education on the signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest in youth.

The spring brought on our usual round of standardized tests including MCAS and AP testing. Seventh grade students scored higher than the state average in both English and mathematics and demonstrated great improvements in mathematics with a higher than average growth percentile, including subgroup of students, such as students with disabilities and high-risk students. For the first time, eighth grade took the MCAS test online, as the state rolls out a new computer-based system of testing. Again, state-identified subgroups of students outperformed their peers across

Massachusetts. In tenth grade, students demonstrated tremendous growth in English and math, with a growth percentile well above their peers across the state. Students are required to pass the MCAS exam in order to earn their high school diploma, and there has never been a Hampshire student unable to earn his or her diploma because of this requirement. Hampshire students also took 130 AP exams in 14 subjects. Students who earn a 3 or higher on this exam may be able to get college credit and bypass coursework in college. Students appreciate being able to take advantage of this opportunity and enjoy the challenge of the coursework.

Seventh grade geography teacher Tracey Pinkham was awarded the Grinspoon Teacher of Excellence Award for Hampshire Regional. Her collaborative nature, strong instructional skills, leadership on her middle school team, and work to build solid family and community relationships made her an ideal candidate for this accolade. Additionally, the Massachusetts School Library Association (MSLA) awarded Andrea Belanger the Super Librarian Award.

Eleven Hampshire Regional middle school students received recognition at the State Science Fair on June 3. Students who received recognition were: Sage Antonio, Abigail Buschini, Kala Garrido, Nora Gianetti, Nathaniel Picard, Peter Tse, Jillian Scott, Jessie Paradis Stern, Michaela Rock, Sara Russell, and Kataryzna Wisnauckas.

Hampshire Regional High School graduated 114 students on June 2, 2017 after an exciting week of senior activities. Advisors Laura Pompei and Todd Bryant organized fun and engaging events for all the seniors to participate in leading up to the evening. Thomas Bisbee was remembered at the beginning of the evening and graduates received their diplomas after beautiful music and memorable speeches from class valedictorian Ida Weiss of Westhampton, class salutatorian Brody Dean of Southamptton, and class officers Peyton Binnenkade, Lauren Braastad, Matthew Babyak, and Brody Dean. Four seniors did not meet the HRHS graduation requirements, but all met the graduation requirements after additional coursework by the end of the fall of 2017.

At the end of the year, Rebecca Phelps retired from her position as Choral Director. Westhampton resident and HRHS graduate, Luanne Clark, who was the office manager, also put in her notice for retirement in November. Both Luanne and Rebecca left a legacy at Hampshire Regional that will always be remembered and deeply appreciated.

Over the summer, the administrative team was quite busy hiring new staff. Gary Perrier was hired in February as the head custodian after Mike Jurkowski resigned. Aidan Talbot replaced Rebecca Phelps, and Alesia Estabrook replaced Luanne Clark. Kate Messmer was tapped as the interim Director of Curriculum, so James Belcastro was hired to teach high school English. Kara Will moved to Georgia, and Sydney Cloutier filled her position in the Wellness Department. Amy Adamski and Patricia Keane joined the math department, while Susannah Branch and Haley Richard took positions in the foreign language department. Jesse Porter-Henry returned to Hampshire as a middle school science teacher because Ali Furman resigned, and Amy Bush, Jeffrey Carriero, Dayna Dolittle, Alicja Strycharz, Lyndsey Oppenheimer, Katelyn Hanlon, Abigail Rivard, Amy Burgess, and Barry Person Junior joined the Special Education department after a number of para educators and special education teachers changed positions or moved on. Judy Thrasher was hired as Hampshire's permanent substitute. Three new coaches were also hired: Gareth Flitcroft became the girls varsity soccer coach; Steve Croft was appointed the boys JV soccer coach; and Lee Mollison was hired as the boys varsity basketball coach.

The 2017-2018 school year welcomed 714 students to Hampshire Regional.

Grade Level	Total Enrollment
7	122
8	162
9	105
10	119
11	93
12	107
Post-high school	6
TOTAL	714

As enrollment decreases, it is important to continue to maintain strong programs and retain solid staffing to ensure that graduates have the same opportunities as their peers across the nation, and to ensure we are able to attract school choice students. Over 100 school choice students make up Hampshire's current population and they bring in additional revenue to our school system.

The School Council identified five goals for Hampshire Regional's 2017-2018 school year including goals related to supporting the whole child, communication, college and career readiness, curriculum and instruction, school safety, and the health curriculum. One specific recommendation was to explore the idea of a support program for students who are struggling with mental health. A very successful model out of Brookline, Massachusetts received a grant to support other schools to develop similar programs. Hampshire reassigned staff within the building to create a system for students to get support who are stepping down from hospitalization, or who have missed school due to serious mental health issues. This program has provided support for a number of students and has ensured that students receive support in district as opposed to being sent out of district to meet their needs.

Students were excited to enroll in a number of new courses at Hampshire in the fall of 2017 including Exploring Computer Science, Advanced Placement Computer Science, and Guitar. The School Committee approved a new method of calculating GPA to align more consistently with college GPA calculations for the new school year. All honors courses count for five additional points towards a student's GPA, instead of ten, starting with the class of 2020. AP classes still count for ten points. Additionally, all classes with a modified curriculum will have a weight of .8 instead of 1.0. This allows for a fairer assessment of student learning and a more accurate GPA.

In September, the Hampshire community learned the sad news that HRHS graduate Mitch Ouimette, from the class of 2016, died of an opioid overdose. As Mitch was an athlete, many students knew Mitch and were shocked and saddened by his death. Students organized a charity basketball event in Mitch's memory in December.

Throughout the fall, students and staff have been working diligently to engage in meaningful teaching and learning. Town officials and school committee members came on learning walks and observed classes in all subject areas to observe many of the great things happening in classrooms. On one day, Marie Hart and Paula Czarniecki, 7th grade English teachers, arranged for author Priscilla Cummings to speak to HRHS 7th graders in October. Ms. Cummings spoke about the revision process, an important lesson for our students to know.

Juniors and seniors recognized for their hard work, commitment to service, and exceptional grades are inducted into the Hampshire Academic Society each year. The 2017-2018 members of the Academic Society, led by History teacher and program leader Grayson DeWitt, include Amanda Adams (Vice President), Colin Allard, Anna Avakian, Anthony Bartolomeo, Lillian Bigelow, Kate Blanchard, Olivia Brennan, Audrey Bronson, Rebecca Buehler, Andrew Cebula, Jake Constantine, Sarah Constantine, Byron Dudas, Nicholas Eline, Tallon Garelli, Emily Halket, Sophia Kubosiak, Kyleen Labrecque, Gwyneth Lech, Molli Loud, Nicholas Morton, Greg Norris (Co-President), Caroline O'Connor, Katelyn Pickunka, Charlotte Reynolds, Nicole Sansouci (Secretary), Sydney Shumway, Abby Tobin (Treasurer), Lydia Touchette (Co-President), Nicole Tripp, DJ Willard, and River Williams.

In addition to their work around pedagogy, teachers also used their professional development time to create a standardized format to document and formalize their curriculum. These unit plans will be placed in a shared google drive to increase collaboration and cross-curricular opportunities. Director of Curriculum Kate Messmer and Principal Smidy have provided staff with time and support for this initiative.

With technology and social media, increased pressures to perform and conform, combined with the rapidly evolving world, there is no question that it is a challenge being a teenager today. Despite the increasing demands placed on teachers, staff, parents, students and the community at large, Hampshire has demonstrated over and over again that it is a fantastic place to grow and learn--I am incredibly thankful to be a part of this very special Hampshire community. Still, we must continue to put our students' needs at the center of all of our collective efforts, as they truly are our future. I hope that the collegial and collaborative atmosphere at Hampshire continues to be a benchmark of this school and district for years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Smidy, Principal

HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

It was another exciting and successful year for athletics at Hampshire Regional.

In the winter, The Boys' and Girls Basketball Teams both made playoffs. The Boys' team fell in the first round to Palmer while the girls' team defeated Sabis International Charter School before falling to South Hadley in the Western Mass Semi Finals at the Curry Hicks Cage. Boys' Basketball Coach, Claud Salomao, retired after 18 seasons at Hampshire Regional. DJ Willard received a 2nd place finish in the Western Mass Wrestling Championships, (160 lbs weight class) and qualified for the State Championships where he finished 2nd. Michael Baldwin also competed in the Western Mass Championships and finished 4th in the 152 lb weight class. In the Indoor Track arena, Hannah Labrie qualified for the State Championships in the Long Jump. On the mountain, Evan Coltman was the lone Raider to qualify for the State Skiing Championships.

There was even more to celebrate in the spring season as the Girls' Softball Team won their 6th consecutive League Championship en route to their fourth consecutive Western Mass Championship. Katy O'Connor and Danielle McGan both reached 100 career hits. Coach Brian McGan retired after 10 Seasons as the Varsity Softball Coach. In his 10 years, Coach McGan led the softball program to 7 League titles, 6 Western Mass Titles and 2 State Championships.

The spring track teams sent a number of athletes to the Western/Central Mass Championships. Missy Gagnon tied for third in pole vaulting and qualified for the state championships where she placed 19th. In the spring of 2017, the school established its first ever lacrosse club. It competed against local JV teams and prep schools. The school also established a volleyball club, which will look to compete against area JV teams in the fall of 2018.

When the leaves turned in 2017, Hampshire's winning ways continued. The Boys' and Girls' Cross Country Teams both won League Championships this past fall. The Girls finished the regular season undefeated, capturing their 4th consecutive league title and also placed 3rd in the Western Mass Championships, qualifying them for the State Championships where they placed 12th in Division 2. The Boys' team won a league title for the first time since 2013. Gymnast Catrina Touchette placed 5th all-around at the Western Mass Gymnastics Championships. The Boys' and Girls' Soccer Teams each qualified for the Western Mass Tournament where the Boys fell to Monument Mountain, while the Girls beat Hoosac Valley before eventually falling to South Hadley in the quarter finals. Hampshire Golf placed 4th in the Division 2 Western Mass Championships as Garrett Antosz tied for ninth place in the Individual Tournament.

2017 came to an end and we are left with memories and examples of Hampshire's students standing out above the crowd. Hampshire Regional continues to be a place where students are able to show off their prowess as athletes and as top-tier individuals.

Respectfully Submitted,

John P. Plourd,
Director of Student Activities

REPORT OF THE WESTHAMPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

As principal of Westhampton Elementary School, I am pleased to report that the past last year was positive and productive in many ways. We continue to make steady progress towards our goals of continued improvement of our educational programs and maintaining and updating our facilities.

As part of the Every Student Succeeds Act, schools and districts are annually placed into one of five accountability and assistance levels. However, this year as a result of our participation in next generation computer based MCAS tests, we did not receive accountability results as the State works towards transitioning to having all students participate in computer based testing. However, we continue to have very positive testing results and continue to work hard to be prepared for computer based testing.

Westhampton Elementary has been a popular destination for School Choice students. In recent years, the School Choice Program has provided us with an additional source of revenue and helped us to continue to be responsive to student needs. Although we have numerous applications each year for potential choice students, we remain conservative in accepting new students to ensure reasonable class sizes and continue to maintain our ability to service students from our own community. Each year, we take a substantial amount of choice money that we receive and use it to offset increases in our budget. This revenue source has for many years allowed us to keep budget increases reasonable. In addition to using choice monies for budget purposes, it is a critical factor in meeting other needs within our educational programs.

This year, we will once again have exceptional costs associated with our special education program. It is our obligation to provide specialized programming for students when we are unable to meet their needs with existing staff or programs. Another benefit of School Choice monies is providing funding to not only meet the needs of the general student population, but also the needs of special needs students, without compromising the quality of either group.

There have been very few changes in our staffing for this school year. Peter Fagan was hired this year in pre-school as a one to one special education para-professional. After 18 years as our preschool teacher, Sarah Hunt, will be retiring at the end of this school year. I thank Sarah for her many years of service to the students of Westhampton Elementary and commend her for her dedication and compassionate services to the Westhampton school community.

A main focus of our school improvement efforts has been to increase our capacity in recognizing and teaching in the most effective and efficient methods we can to support students emotionally and challenge them cognitively. This year we had the opportunity to work with town resident and Harvard University fellow Julia Volkman. Julia did professional development work with staff on The Neuroscience of Learning. Her work helped staff to understand the functional structures of the brain and how to use brain based teaching strategies to maximize learning for all students. Our staff has also been working at updating our science curriculum and developing more project based activities as part of their unit development. We recently have purchased a subscription to Discovery Science, which is a web-based resource that can be used as a digital textbook and offers many video, audio clips and other types of digital media that teachers and students can

access. This resource is providing valuable and engaging science content to our students that they really seem to enjoy.

The arts are an important part of any elementary school experience. This year our theme is food. Staff will be working throughout the year to integrate this theme into our curriculum, highlighting these efforts in our annual art and music night in April. Once again this year, we've had a number of artists in residence and local experts in their field come in to work with our students and broaden their horizons and add a new perspective for our students and staff. Our music teacher, Beth Besser, along with Natalee Dias, our art teacher, always work to add new opportunities and perspectives to our program for the benefit of our students. Natalee Dias worked collaboratively with local artist Motoko Dworkin from Amherst to write a grant for the Massachusetts Cultural Council allowing her to work as an artist in residence at our school. This residence allowed our students opportunities to develop their geometric and spatial thinking, narrative writing skills, and multicultural awareness through the art of origami. They experienced origami as a traditional Japanese art as well as a modern practice with mathematical applications, allowing them to explore how art and science are connected. Our students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to work with Motoko.

Todd Lynch, who was recognized by the State for excellence in energy and environmental education, also had an opportunity to be a teacher in residence with our fifth grade class. Mr. Lynch completed a STEM arts program helping students to learn about watersheds, stream dynamics and ecology. They mapped rivers and created environmental sculptures - participating in many hands on science technology and engineering projects. It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to work and learn from local expert.

Safety continues to be an important focus of our work. Staff and students work together with local and state emergency personnel to refine our safety plans in the event of an emergency. We have opportunities to practice various types of emergency scenarios with support and feedback from all participants. We've added additional cameras to increase safety, handicapped accessibility ramps to our early childhood side of the building and will be adding another set with handrails to allow better access to the playground for all students. I want to recognize Dave Blakesley and our road crew who are always helpful in doing much of this work in order to keep costs down for our community.

We have begun a modest gardening project with the support of the PTO and local volunteer, Chris Wayne. Our students planted pumpkins and sunflowers and cared for them through the school year. They used the pumpkins we harvested last fall for science and math activities like decomposition, soil study, estimation, circumference and perimeter. The sunflowers helped to attract more birds to the property for students to observe as part of the third grade's birds unit. In the future, we are considering a milkweed garden to augment our students' study of butterflies.

As a result of the efforts of one of our fifth grade students, Dana Warren we had an incredible visit from civil rights icon Ruby Bridges in February. Dana had wanted to have Ruby visit since reading her biography in second grade and after several failed attempts to find a sponsor for a visit wrote a letter to the President of Smith College. After receiving a letter from Dana, Smith College generously agreed to sponsor her visit to our school. We took this opportunity to partner with our friends from the Council on Aging to help prepare our students for this visit. Council members volunteered to spend time in our classrooms and helped our students to learn more

about the history of civil rights. They took part in our study of Ruby’s life and helped to offer stories and experiences that helped our students better understand what it was like living during the civil right era. Our staff and students enjoyed these intergenerational activities very much! We hope to partner with the Council on Aging Group group again in the future.

Last year, we graduated a class of 17 students: Hailey Bergeron, Elizabeth Bowser, Avery Brooks, Gabriel Buschini, Elizabeth Colon-Garcia, Anna Dunlap, Charles Florek, Ella Forest, Allison Griswold, Miryam Hilmbrand, Skylar Lafoe, Christine Latka, Ethan Marowitz, Evan Novak, Jenna Pratt, Jared Szwajkowski, Liam Young. I congratulate all of these students on the completion of their elementary School experience and wish them well in their futures.

	Boys	Girls	Total
Preschool	10	4	14
Kindergarten	2	6	8
1st	10	5	15
2nd	9	8	17
3rd	9	9	18
4th	7	9	16
5th	9	7	16
6th	9	8	17
K-6 totals	55	52	107
School Totals	65	56	121

I am proud of our school. We will always do our best to meet the needs of our families and to be responsible partners with the larger community. It is our goal to be a source of pride for the town of Westhampton.

Respectfully submitted,

Deane Bates, Principal

REPORT OF THE HILLTOWN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COOPERATIVE

Annual Report for fiscal year 2017

The Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative (HRMC) was created in 1989 by a group of dedicated volunteers who had the vision to seek a regional solution to help small towns attain sustainability and environmental objectives.

The member-Towns that comprise the HRMC include: Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, and Worthington. Each Town appoints two representatives to serve on the HRMC Board. Board Officers for FY17 included: Joe Kearns, Chair (Middlefield); John Chandler, Vice Chair (Chesterfield); and, Paul Wetzol, Treasurer (Williamsburg).

The HRMC assists hilltown member-communities with managing their solid waste including: municipal waste hauling and disposal bid administration, recycling administration, hazardous waste disposal, and, DEP compliance and technical assistance. In FY17 those services included:

- Liaison between Towns and MassDEP on compliance matters.
- Execution of an annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection event
- Program management of Transfer Station Recyclables including collection, hauling and recycling of tires, electronic waste, universal waste (including free recycling of mercury thermostats and re-chargeable batteries), and Freon removal from appliances.
- Transfer Station operations and compliance monitoring including informal HRMC site visits as well as the formal, annual DEP 3rd Party Inspection and Reporting.
- Preparation and submittal of DEP annual surveys and reports.
- DEP Grant Administration including grant writing and reporting.

In addition to the managing the day to day business and program operations of the HRMC, the HRMC Administrator also serves as a representative on behalf of its member Towns to the MRF Municipal Advisory Board, the State Solid Waste Advisory Committee and, the Western Mass Regional Recycling Coordinator group; advocates with local, regional, and State officials; and, is available to serve as a liaison to the DEP on transfer station operations and compliance related issues.

In FY17, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced their Recycling Dividend Program Grants under the annual Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP). All ten HRMC member-towns were eligible for and received grants submitted for them through the HRMC. In total, the HRMC Towns received \$ 24,200.00 in grant funding to be used to further enhance recycling programs within their communities. Grant applications for FY18 were submitted in June 2017 for a total of more than \$ 42,000 in funding requests.

The HRMC has an annual operation's assessment that is approved by each Town at their annual Town meeting. The annual Assessment Budget is based on tonnage and population. In FY17, the combined assessment for all ten towns was \$ 49,575. The Assessments offset base operating expenses. Recycling program collection costs (other than MRF recyclables) are pass-thru expenses from the HRMC to the Towns to best maximize the economy of scale and to enable the HRMC administrator to have review and oversight of vendor relations, and program operations. In FY17, the HRMC acquired one new MRF container in an on-going plan to

remove containers from the HRMC fleet (purchased 1989) that are no longer road-worthy. Cost for the new container was shared by those Towns utilizing the HRMC fleet.

During the past year, the HRMC member-Towns collectively diverted 975 tons of recyclable materials to the Springfield MRF. In addition, the Town of Plainfield diverted bulky rigid plastics; the Towns of Cummington, Plainfield, Westhampton and Williamsburg diverted EPS (Styrofoam); and, the Towns of Plainfield and Williamsburg diverted pellet bags. The Town of Williamsburg continued to serve as the HRMC regional mattress recycling facility. The Town of Westhampton served as the host-site for the HRMC's annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection event. In FY17, all Towns began recycling household fire extinguishers through a free program administered by HRMC in collaboration with George Propane and Pittsfield Fire.

Last year, 8 member-Towns adopted recycling goals of 50% with the intent of increasing quantity and improving the quality of materials being recycled at their transfer stations and to reduce waste being landfilled. In 2016, the HRMC Towns had an average recycling rate of 32.1% and in 2017, 31.9% . In 2016, The Town of Westhampton had a recycling rate of 36% and in 2017, 35.2%. The Town recycled 105 tons of recyclables at the MRF in 2017.

This past year, HRMC re-invigorated the Compost Bin distribution program and the Towns of Chesterfield, Westhampton, and Williamsburg offered special subsidized pricing to encourage at home composting for their residents.

For more information about HRMC programs, visit us online at www.hrmc-ma.org or by emailing hrmc@hrmc-ma.org

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Casey, HRMC Administrator

REPORT OF THE HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

HCG Overview

HCG supports communities by empowering local, sustainable, and efficient economies. The organization helps cities and towns, schools, nonprofits, and businesses get the most value by pooling their buying power. HCG's Hampshire Power provides electricity services, including green and locally produced electricity. The HCG Purchasing Co-op makes it easy for towns, cities, and nonprofits to save money, time, and effort on major and everyday purchases. HCG's Group Insurance Trust helps communities keep health insurance costs low. And HCG supports communities with uniquely effective service programs: RSVP of the Pioneer Valley and the Hampshire-Franklin Tobacco-Free Community Partnership. Every cent HCG earns goes back to supporting the communities of Western Massachusetts. HCG is funded by its own revenue and grants.

FY2017—Continued program expansion and revenue growth

HCG has consistently demonstrated a high return on investment for our member communities: this year has been no exception. HCG experienced continued growth in both revenue and net results with an unaudited cash year end position of \$374,891 in excess revenue.

General Fund Net: (\$548,328)

Electricity Fund Net: \$923,219

Total Net Result: \$374,891

About our Programs:

Hampshire Power

Hampshire Power is the only Massachusetts based nonprofit energy supplier. Hampshire Power offers fixed-rate, and green electricity. Hampshire Power facilitates a donation to the United Way of Hampshire County for every customer that signs up for local power.

Gross Revenue: \$6,698,867

Net Result: \$923,219

Hampshire Renewables

Hampshire Renewables net metering program is a simple way to share in locally owned and managed solar, or cow power.

1.8 MW of net metering credits sold

Energy Credits

HCG is the local choice to sell your Massachusetts Renewable Energy Credits. HCG makes it easy to maximize your energy investment. HCG has expanded its energy credit broker service to include Alternative Energy Credits (AECs) in addition to Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs), beginning in 2018.

In the last few years, revenue has gone from \$3,437 (FY13), to \$103,574 (FY17). As of the end

of FY17 HCG managed \$3.4 million worth of renewable energy credits.

HCG Purchasing Co-op

The Purchasing Co-op aggregates buying power to save money, time, and effort.

During FY2017, the Purchasing Co-op launched three new bids for Highway-related services and products. A new Tree Services bid was also developed for use by area towns. We collaborated on a program to add frozen local vegetables as part of our annual School and Cafeteria bid, and conducted research in the areas of Human Resource Services, as well as Custodial Supplies needs. New customers added in FY2017 included schools, towns, councils on aging, and other nonprofits. The Purchasing Co-op finished in the black for the first time ever in FY17 and continued to grow in terms of total value of goods and services sold.

Total value of goods and services sold: \$10,959,550

FY17 net results: \$12,554

HCG Group Insurance Trust

The Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust (GIT) delivers the highest possible level of health insurance benefits at the lowest consistent price.

GIT provides health and life insurance to over 10,000 individuals. The GIT's revenue increased from \$49,097,910 to \$53,770,883 over the past fiscal year: a 9.5% increase. 11 out of 15-member towns use the GIT in place of the state plan. Member towns secured \$2.9 million in savings through the GIT.

Hampshire IT

The Hampshire IT program offers Western Massachusetts the best information technology service at highly competitive rates. Hampshire IT is a partnership with the region's largest IT company, Paragus IT. By hiring Paragus through HCG, customers are able to receive a discounted rate on IT services.

Hampshire Web

Businesses, residents, and visitors look to your town website for important information. Hampshire web is a partnership between HCG and Virtual Towns and Schools. Pool resources to create professional websites for a fraction of the cost of contracting on your own.

RSVP of the Pioneer Valley

RSVP of the Pioneer Valley is the volunteer connector for people 55 and over. The volunteers use their expertise to benefit their communities and focus on helping seniors remain independent and in their own homes, increasing food security in the region, and building nonprofits' capacity to do great work through fundraising and program support.

Partner Organizations: 56

Volunteers: 648

Volunteer Hours Served: 100,004

RSVP trained volunteers lead free weekly Healthy Bones & Balance exercise classes, designed

to increase participants' strength, mobility, flexibility, and balance.

Hampshire-Franklin Tobacco-Free Community Partnership

The Hampshire-Franklin Tobacco-Free Community Partnership has a mission to encourage and support smokers in Franklin and Hampshire County to quit. It also aims to create awareness of harmful, smokeless tobacco products that are often marketed towards young people.

New Smoke Free Units: 937

Regional Accounting

As part of HCG's mission to serve our smaller communities, we provide a regional accounting service to towns without municipal accountants. These financial services include town accountant services, bookkeeping, and payables.

Community

HCG also supports the community by participating in:

- The Downtown Northampton Association
- The Awesome Foundation
- Legislative Summit

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Ford, Executive Director
Hampshire Council of Government

**Annual Town Meeting
May 13, 2017**

Voters present 117

Moderator Richard Tracy called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM. Moderator asked if there were any objections to having nonresidents, Police Chief, David White, Librarian Lynn Blair, Hampshire Regional High School and Westhampton Elementary School officials as well as Joe Boudreau Town Accountant speak as needed. There were no objections. Moderator asked if meeting members would like the warrant to be read and with a motion from the floor it was voted to dispense with the reading of the warrant. Moderator noted the presence of the Westhampton Town Flag that was recently created and designed by Mary Montague and Bob Miller. The flag depicts the states largest walnut tree that sits in front of Town Hall.

ARTICLE 1: To hear and act on all reports presented at said meeting.

The Moderator noted the Town Report was dedicated to the Police Department and had members of the department stand for recognition well deserved. A list of corrections was read by page:

Page 90: Library Salaries -Director –FY18 \$40,213.00 – Staff Librarian FY17 \$15.86/hr. –FY18 \$16.26/hr. – Custodian FY18 \$11.80/hr.

Page 91: Highways – Road Machinery Buildings –FY 17 \$29,887.00

Page 92: Cemeteries – Add Cemetery Commissioners to FY 18 \$450.00

Page 92: Protection of Persons & Property – Tree Warden Expense- FY18 \$2,200.00

Page 93: Town Hall Paint – duplicate entry but not added to totals.

Page 22: Schedule of Capital Planning was requested to be printed with larger font for ease of reading.

Motion made and seconded to approve the Town Report as amended – Motion carried

ARTICLE 2: To elect by ballot necessary officers to serve in the ensuing year and to cast their votes on question 1 & 2:

Selectboard	One for three years
Board of Assessors	One for three years
Planning Board	Two for three years
Finance Committee	Three for three years
Finance Committee	One for one years
Hampshire Regional School Committee	One for three years
Elementary School Committee	Two for three years
Elementary School Committee	Two for two years
Moderator	One for one year
Tree Warden	One for one year
Library Trustees	Two for three years
Library Trustee	One for two years
Constable (South District)	One for three years
Hampshire Councilor	One for two years

Question 1: Shall the Town vote to have its Selectboard appoint Cemetery Commissioners?

YES

NO

Question 2 (non-binding): Shall the Town vote to seek issuance of a separate zip code?
 YES NO

No action at this time. The annual election is June 3, 2017 from 8:00 AM - Noon

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to accept by unanimous consent and without debate the following four articles or any combination of them: Article 4, Care of the Highways; Article 14, Unemployment Benefits; Article 16, Fire Dept. revolving fund; Article 17, Cemetery revolving fund.

Motion made and seconded – Motion carried

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to leave the care of the highways in charge of the Selectboard.

Voted under Article 3

ARTICLE 5: To vote in compliance with Section 108, Chapter 41 G.L., which requires that salaries of elected officials be fixed by vote of the Town.

Elected Official	Chair	Members	FY 2018
Selectboard (3) chair/members	2,000	1,500	5,000
Assessors (3) chair/members	2,996	2,652	8,300
School Committee (5) chair/members	482	252	1,490
Tree Warden		641	641
Moderator		487	487
Total Salaries			15,918.00

Motion made and seconded to approve the salaries of elected officials as recommended by the Finance Committee – Motion carried

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, such sum of money as may be necessary to defray Town charges in the ensuing year.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the amounts of money set forth in the proposed budget as recommended by the Finance Committee with the exception of those taken up under separate articles

Moderator asked if there were specific questions on any line items he then proceeded to read line items and certain line items were held (H) for further discussion.

COUNSEL FEES	20,000	H
MODERATOR	487	
SELECTMEN SALARY	5,000	
SELECTMEN EXPENSE	5,700	
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	32,306	
TOWN ACCOUNTANT SALARY	15,452	
TOWN ACCOUNTANT EXPENSE	3,800	
ASSESSOR SALARY	8,300	
ASSESSOR EXPENSE	11,600	
ASSESSOR ASSISTANT	14,900	
TREASURER SALARY	15,452	

TREASURER EXPENSE	6,050	
TAX TITLE EXPENSE	2,500	
TAX COLLECTOR SALARY	15,452	
TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE	14,820	
TOWN CLERK SALARY	13,246	
TOWN CLERK EXPENSE	5,000	
CLERK, BOARD OF REGISTRARS	100	
CONSERVATION COMMISSION	225	
ZONING BOARD	600	
PLANNING BOARD EXPENSE	300	
HIGHWAYS		
HIGHWAY SALARIES	220,676	
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION	4,750	
HIGHWAY MATERIALS	89,000	
ROAD MACHINERY	41,700	
ROAD MACHINERY FUEL	43,050	
SNOW REMOVAL	90,000	
ROAD MACHINERY BLDGS	29,887	
TRANSFER STATION EXPENSES	51,550	H
HILLTOWN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COOP	5,448	
SCHOOLS & LIBRARIES		
SCHOOL COMMITTEE SALARY	1,490	
LIBRARY	91,854	H
VETERANS		
VETERANS EXPENSE	3,500	
VETERANS AGENT SALARY	1,738	
MEMORIAL DAY	200	
CULTURAL COUNCIL	75	
CEMETERIES		
CEMETERY SALARY	6,345	
CEMETERY COMMISSION –Voted 6/26/17	450	H
PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROPERTY		
POLICE CHIEF SALARY	28,977	
POLICE DEPARTMENT Original 55,411 increased 6/26/17	57,981	H
FIRE CHIEF	11,596	
EMERGENCY MNGT DIRECTOR	452	
FIRE DEPARTMENT	42,200	
SAFETY COMPLEX	14,925	H
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	17,000	
INSPECTORS COMPENSATION	5,500	H
BUILD INSPECT/COMMISS SALARY	14,000	

INSPECTORS EXPENSE	1,280	
TREE WARDEN EXPENSE	2,200	
TREE WARDEN SALARY	641	
ANIMAL INSPECTOR	820	
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER SALARY	1,707	
ACO/INSPECTOR EXPENSE	700	
BOARD OF HEALTH SALARY	1,200	
BOARD HEALTH EXPENSE	500	
FOOTHILLS HEALTH DISTRICT	16,507	
DEBT & INTEREST		
LONG TERM DEBT (highway & fire truck)	145,000	
LONG TERM DEBT (highway truck & roof)	95,000	
INTEREST ON LONG TERM DEBT	6,922	
UNCLASSIFIED		
INSURANCE & BONDS	83,375	
TOWN OFFICES	27,705	
IT SUPPORT - Voted 6/26/17	7,600	H
COUNCIL ON AGING	3,025	
COUNCIL ON AGING COORDINATOR	2,593	
HISTORICAL	1,200	
COUNTY RETIREMENT	186,914	
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS	761	
PVPC	254	
GROUP INSURANCE	390,000	
OPEB TRUST FUND	5,000	
MEDICARE	27,000	
RESERVE FUND	20,000	
TOTAL Article 6	2,093,538	

Holds

Counsel Fees – questions on why so much – Phil Dowling replied it was due to a few ongoing lawsuits that have been costly to Town hopefully it will stabilize as some of them have been resolved.

Motion made and seconded to fund Counsel Fees \$20,000- Motion carried

Transfer Station Expenses – hold was withdrawn

Library – Question of accountability by library and would like to see the Annual Report of the Trustees which is required under MGL Ch. 78 s. 12. Brian Mulvehill Library Trustee stated this report was given to the Finance Committee.

Motion and second to postpone the vote on the Library budget until report is provided – Motion fails

Motion made and seconded to vote \$91,984.00 to fund the library – motion carried

Cemetery commission hold until reconvene due to question on the ballot 6/3/17 -

Police Department –Resident concerned that snow shovelers make more per hour than the police do.

Motion made and seconded to increase the Police budget and pay police \$18.20 per hour

Police Chief spoke that if you increase officers the Sergeant should make 10 percent more.

Select Board is who puts forward hourly rates for appointed positions Town Meeting does not.

Police with Finance and Select Board will get together and come up with a figure at reconvene

Motion made to amend original motion and hold line item until reconvene – second – motion carried

Safety Complex - questions as to why there has been no increase in this budget for the past 3 years and what is paid for out of this line item – Fire Chief responded that it is to maintain the building

- oil for heating, electric, phone, cable, furnace cleaning and general maintenance

Motion made and seconded to fund the Safety Complex \$14,925 –Motion carried

Inspectors Compensation – what is this for and is it sufficient – This only pays the Electrical and Plumbing Inspectors and not the Building Inspector which is a separate line item

Motion made and seconded to fund the Inspectors Compensation \$5,500 – Motion carried

Information Technology Support – Hold until Reconvene large report just turned in and needs to be studied.

Question asked as to who would do review and would the former IT Committee be involved.

Select Board and Administrative Assistant will do review as the IT Committee has not been involved in a long time.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to meet Westhampton’s share of Hampshire Regional School District's assessment for Fiscal 2018, or any lesser sum as may be certified by the District, provided that any such certification shall be made prior to the establishment of the tax rate, and to meet this appropriation, a sum of money be raised by taxation, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Discussion on number of students this year -752 compared to 748 last year - total number of Westhampton students is 131.

Motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$1,143,862 – Motion carried

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to meet Westhampton’s share of Hampshire Regional School District's capital assessment for Fiscal 2018, or any lesser sum as may be certified by the District, provided that any such certification shall be made prior to the establishment of the tax rate, and to meet this appropriation, a sum of money be raised by taxation, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Explanation – The high school was renovated in 2002 this debt will retire in 2020

Motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$67,148 – Motion carried

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for the Elementary School, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$1,632,230 – Motion carried

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Vocational school tuition, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Discussion - increase from last year due partly to 3 more students this year to attend for a total of 21 students.

Motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$386,330 - Motion carried

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Vocational school transportation, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$56,396 –Motion carried

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for a Financial Audit for the Town, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$7,000 – Motion carried

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund, or take any action relative thereto. (Current balance in Free Cash \$541,712.00/ current balance in Stabilization \$51,139.55)

Motion made and seconded that the Town transfer \$315,000.00 from Free Cash to the Stabilization Account – Motion carried

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide \$19,000 to hold in anticipation of unemployment benefits for Town employees in accordance with Chapter 151A of the General Laws of Massachusetts.- **Voted under Article 3**

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of \$186,936.00 as may be certified from available funds, due to the Town as Chapter 90 Highway funds, from the Transportation Bond Issue, or take any other action in relation thereto.

So moved and seconded – Motion carried

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a revolving fund not to exceed \$2000 for the Fire Department, under MGL Chapter 44, sec 53 E1/2, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Voted under Article 3

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a revolving fund not to exceed \$6000 for the Westhampton Cemetery, under MGL Chapter 44, Sec 53 E1/2, or take any other action in relation thereto. **Voted under Article 3**

ARTICLE18: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from Free Cash to reduce the tax rate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion was made and seconded to hold this question until reconvene – Motion carried

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to go towards the matching amount required for the procurement of a new ambulance upon a successful award of an Assistance to Firefighters Grant and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transferred from available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion was made that the Town transfer the sum of \$8,571.00 from the Ambulance Receipts Reserve to go toward the matching amount required for the procurement of a new ambulance upon a successful award of an Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Discussion – The Town’s match on the grant is only five percent. Cost to run the ambulance for the year is approximately \$17,000.

Motion and second for a secret ballot. Moderator appointed George Shafer and Wayne Parks as counters – sworn in by clerk

Ballot count 78 Yes 14 No – Motion carries.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to pay for a feasibility study of the Town’s Public Safety Complex, and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transferred from available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Discussion – RFQ was sent out and committee is currently in negotiations with top choice company.

Motion was made that the Town transfer the sum of \$55,000.00 from Free Cash to pay for a feasibility study of the Town’s Public Safety Complex – Motion Carried

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money for the procurement of new police department vehicle and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transferred from available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion was made that the Town transfer the sum of \$47,000.00 from Free Cash to pay for a new vehicle for the Police department – Motion carried

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money for the procurement of new truck for the highway department and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transferred from available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion was made that the Town Authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow under the General laws Chapter 44 § 7(9), or any other enabling statute, the sum of up to \$250,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a new truck for the Highway Department, contingent upon a passage of a debt exclusion ballot question – Motion carried by 2/3 majority.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Westhampton General Bylaws as follows:

Article 4

Section 5 Power of appointment,

4-5-2: The Selectboard shall also appoint: (h) Cemetery Commission of three members, appointed for overlapping three-year terms, in accordance with M.G. L. Chapter 41, Section 27.”

Motion to hold the question until reconvene due to question on Annual Town Election Ballot to appoint a Cemetery Commission- Motion carried

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to instruct its representatives in the Massachusetts State Senate and House to support the Safe Communities Act (SD 1596, HD 3052).

This Act would:

- **Prohibit state support for any Muslim registry.** Prohibit law enforcement agencies and the Registry of Motor Vehicles from allowing access to databases or records for enforcement of any federal registry program based on national origin, religion or other protected characteristics.
- **Ensure Basic Due Process Rights for immigrants detained in state and local facilities.** Require informing detainees - in a language they understand – that they have the right to decline an interview with ICE agents, and to have their own attorney present (at their own expense) if they so choose.
- **Ensure that police resources are used to fight crime, not separate families.** Ensure that state, local and campus police don't participate in federal immigration enforcement activities, including participation in inquiries, investigations, raids, arrests or detentions that are based solely on immigration status. When police become ICE agents, immigrant victims and witnesses of crime are afraid to call police, which makes us all less safe.
- **Prohibit collaboration agreements between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and law enforcement agencies that deputize state and local officers as immigration agents,** like those recently concluded by Bristol and Plymouth Counties.
- **Uphold constitutional standards.** The bill puts citizens and non-citizens on equal footing with respect to law enforcement. It would not prevent police from arresting or detaining a person in the course of a criminal investigation or prosecution supported by probable cause of crime, which is consistent with constitutional standards applicable to all people in the Commonwealth.
- **Conform to federal law.** The bill contains several provisions ensuring compliance with federal law, specifically to 8 U.S.C. § 1373, which prohibits state and local governments from restricting exchange of information about citizenship or immigration status.

**So moved and seconded request for ballot vote –
Ballots counted 37 Yes 41 No – Motion fails**

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to instruct its representatives in the Massachusetts State Senate and House to support the creation of a revenue-neutral Carbon Fee & Dividend program, such as outlined in the Combating Climate Change (SD 1021).

This Act would:

- Create a system of greenhouse gas emission fees to be charged for the sale or distribution of natural gas, petroleum, coal, fuels, derived therefrom, and other greenhouse gas-emitting priorities within the state.
- Place all revenue from these fees within a separate rebate fund.
- Determine the proportion of revenue in the fund attributable to greenhouse gas-emitting sources purchased or consumed by residents, and the proportion purchased or consumed by employers.
- Return all proceeds from the fund to residents and employers in the commonwealth in the form of rebates. Each resident shall receive an equal rebate, except that residents of rural municipalities shall receive an additional motor vehicle fuel rebate. Employers' rebates shall be determined based on the number of full-time equivalent employees, and an evaluation of the sectors, sub-sectors or individual employers most affected by the Act.

So moved and seconded–

Hand Count 27 Yes 39 No – Motion fails

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution, or take any action relative thereto:

We the residents of Westhampton, MA affirm that our nation is dedicated to the principle of equality. We recognize the inherent value of all individuals in our community, regardless of race, sex, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or immigration status. This commonwealth of ours has been committed since its founding to the common good. It is our belief that policies which deter certain individuals from contacting government officials, law enforcement, or medical assistance, or accessing educational opportunities, out of fear of deportation, create a community which is less welcoming and less safe for all residents.

In accordance with these beliefs, we charge the Westhampton government to serve every town resident equally and without regard to immigration status. We charge schools serving Westhampton residents to continue to enroll children in the district regardless of immigration status, in accordance with rulings of the U.S. Supreme Court and guidance of the Federal Department of Justice and Education, which state that students cannot be denied a free public education due to their immigration status. We further direct Westhampton police department to refrain from initiating an investigation or taking law enforcement action on the basis of immigration status, and to refrain from inquiring as to an individual’s immigration status except as required by state or federal law.

So moved and seconded–
Hand Count 31 Yes 36 No – Motion fails

RECAPITULATION		
Article 6 Budget		2,093,538
Article 7 Hampshire Regional HS Budget		1,143,862
Article 8 Hampshire Regional HS Capital Debt		67,148
Article 9 Elementary School		1,632,230
Article 10 Vocational Tuition		386,330
Article 11 Vocational Transportation		56,396
Article 12 Financial Audit		7,000
Article 14 Unemployment		19,000
Total raise and appropriate		5,405,504
Article 13 Stabilization fund	315,000	
Article 21 Police cruiser	47,000	
Article 20 Safety Complex Study	55,000	
Total from Free Cash		
417,000		
Article 19 Ambulance Grant	8,571	
Total from Ambulance Receipts Reserve		8,571

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS**6,018,011**

Beverly Montague resident from Chesterfield Road is concerned about speeders in Town. She would like to get a committee together to discuss ideas on how to help the Police Department reduce the speeding vehicles. Moderator told anyone interested to contact Ms. Montague directly

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Town Meeting to Monday June 26 2017 at 7:30 P.M.

The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia W. Cotton
Town Clerk

MEETING MINUTES
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING CONTINUED JUNE 26, 2017
Voters present - 54

Meeting was called to order by the Moderator Richard Tracy at 7:53 PM with a quorum present. Explanation that certain line items under Article 6 had been held and now needed to be voted.

Cemetery Ballot question passed – **Motion made and seconded to fund \$450 for Cemetery Commission – Motion carried**

Police Department -Motion was made to move \$55,411 to fund the Police Dept.

Finance Committee was given no information from Select Board and has no new figure to supply for budget. Chief White did a survey and found the average Officer in neighboring towns earns \$18.00 per hour.

This figure would not be adequate to increase wages.

Motion was made and seconded to increase this figure by \$1,729.10 – discussion was had that this was not enough to cover increase and the amount to increase would be \$2,540-

Original motion withdrawn

Motion was made and seconded to fund \$57,981 for the Police budget – Motion carried

Information Technology Support

Motion made and seconded to fund IT support \$7,600

Administrative Assistant stated this amount includes \$500.00 paid per month for support of all town computers and a buffer in case any hardware fails and needs to be replaced.

Motion Carried

Motion was made and seconded to fund Article 6 in the amount of \$2,093,538- Motion carried

Article 18 -**Motion was made and seconded to transfer \$50,000 from Free Cash to reduce the tax rate**

Motion carried

Article 23-Ballot question passed at Annual Town Election to have Selectboard appoint Cemetery Commission -**Article moved and seconded – Motion carried**

Motion was made and seconded an unanimously approved to dissolve the Annual Town Meeting at 8:37 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia W. Cotton
Town Clerk

SALARIES FY2018/PROPOSED FY2019

All figures are annual unless otherwise noted

ELECTED OFFICIALS

	<u>FY2018</u>	<u>Proposed FY19</u>
Selectboard 3 Chair/Others	2000/1500	2043/1541
Board of Assessors 3 Chair/Others	2996/2652	3066/2721
Board of Health 3 Chair/Others	500/350	510/360
Moderator	475	487
School Committee 5 Chair/Others	482/252	487/260
Tree Warden	641	657

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Town Clerk	13,246	13,577
Town Accountant	15,452	15,838
Treasurer	15,452	15,838
Clerk, Bd. Registrars	100	100
Election Workers	11.00/hr.	11.28/hr.
Administrative Assistant	32,306	36,425
Tax Collector	15,452	15,838
Assessor Assistant	14,900	15,273
COA Coordinator	15.00/hr.	15.38/hr.
Animal Inspector	820	841
Animal Control Officer	1,707	1,750
Veterans Agent	1,738	1,781
Building Inspector/Commissioner	14,000	18,000
Wiring	30/inspection	50/inspection
Plumbing Inspectors	30/inspection	50/inspection
Cemetery Commissioners 3	450	461

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Superintendent	64,807	66,428
Grade 1A	24.98/hr.	25.60/hr.
Grade 1	23.96/hr.	24.56/hr.
Transfer Station Attendant	13.79/hr.	15.00/hr.

LIBRARY

Director	40,119	41,323
Staff Librarian	16.33/hr.	15.00/hr.
Custodian	11.80/hr.	12.10/hr.

TOWN HALL

Custodian	11.80/hr.	12.10/hr.
Snow Removal	17.81/hr.	18.26/hr.

POLICE

Chief	28,977	32,246
Sergeant	22.00/hr.	22.55/hr.
Officers	18.00/hr.	18.45/hr.

92,674

FIRE CHIEF	11,596	11,886
EMERGENCY MGT DIR	452	463
CEMETERY CARETAKER	6,345	6,504

FY18 FINAL/FY19 PROPOSED BUDGETS

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	FY2018	FY2019
Counsel Fees	20,000	20,000
Moderator	487	499
Selectboard Salary	5,000	5,125
Selectboard Expense	5,700	7,106
Administrative Assistant	32,306	36,425
Town Accountant Salary	15,452	15,838
Town Accountant Expense	3,800	3,800
Audit	7,000	7,000
Assessor Salary	8,300	8,508
Assessor Expense	11,600	8,300
field rev conversion	0	9,800
Assessor Assistant	14,900	15,273
Treasurer Salary	15,452	15,838
Treasurer Expense	6,050	5,800
Tax Title Expense	2,500	2,500
Tax Collector Salary	15,452	15,838
Tax Collector Expense	14,820	15,256
Tax Taking Expenses	2,000	2,000
Town Clerk Salary	13,246	13,577
Town Clerk Expense	5,000	6,775
Clerk, Board of Registrars	100	100
Conservation Commission	225	218
Zoning Board Expense	600	600
Planning Board Expense	300	300
HIGHWAYS		
Highway Administration	4,750	4,750
Highway Salaries	220,676	226,194
Highway Materials	89,000	89,000
Road Machinery	41,700	41,700
Road Machinery Fuel	43,050	43,050
Snow Removal	90,000	95,000
Road Machinery Buildings	29,887	29,887
Transfer Station Expenses	51,550	55,550
Hilltown Resource Management Co	5,448	6,833
SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES		
Hampshire Regional HS	1,143,862	1,234,318
HRHS Capital	69,148	65,475
Vocational Tuition	352,330	352,330
Vocational Transportation	56,396	57,579
Elementary School	1,632,230	1,709,401
School Committee Salary	1,490	1,527
Library	91,854	92,674
VETERANS		
Veterans Expense	9,360	14,460

Veterans Agent Salary	1,738	1,781
Memorial Day	200	200
Cultural Council	75	75
CEMETERIES		
Cemetery Expenses	6,345	6,504
Cemetery Commission	450	461
PROTECTION OF PERS. & PROP.		
Police Chief	28,977	32,246
Police Department	57,981	60,474
Fire Chief	11,596	11,886
Emergency Management Director	452	463
Fire Department	42,200	42,200
Safety Complex	14,925	14,925
Emergency Medical Services	17,000	17,000
Inspector Compensation	5,500	9,000
Building Inspector/Commissioner Salary	14,000	18,000
Inspector Expense	1,280	2,270
Tree Warden Expense	2,200	2,400
Tree Warden Salary	641	657
Animal Inspector Salary	820	841
Animal Control Officer Salary	1,707	1,750
Animal Control Officer Expenses	700	700
Board of Health Salary	1,200	1,230
Board of Health Expense	500	500
Foothills Health District	16,507	20,891
DEBT AND INTEREST		
Long Term Debt(hwy. garage & fire truck)	145,000	0
Long Term Debt(hwy. truck & school roof)	95,000	85,000
Interest Long Term Debt	6,922	4,361
UNCLASSIFIED		
Insurance & Bonds	83,375	84,210
Town Offices	27,705	27,460
Information Technology Support	7,600	9,700
Council on Aging	3,025	3,025
COA Coordinator	2,593	2,395
Historical	1,200	1,200
County Retirement	186,914	200,517
Council of Governments	761	761
Pioneer Valley Planning Council	254	260
Unemployment	19,000	20,000
Group Insurance	390,00	396,000
OPEB Trust Fund	5,000	5,000
Medicare	27,000	27,000
Reserve Fund	20,000	10,000
Establish PD Revolving Fund	1000	0
Police Vehicle	47,000	0
Feasibility Study	55,000	0
Town Hall Annex Repairs	0	6000
IT Equipment Upgrade	0	25,750
Elementary School Lighting Project	0	40,000
Fuel Storage Tanks	0	30,760
TOTAL BUDGET	5,482,364	5,683,852

ARTICLES ON THE WARRANT
MAY 12, 2018 Annual Town Meeting
JUNE 2, 2018 Annual Election

ARTICLE 1: To hear and act on all reports presented at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To elect by ballot necessary officers to serve in the ensuing year and to cast their votes on question 1:

Selectboard	One for three years
Board of Assessors	One for three years
Planning Board	One for three years
Finance Committee	Four for three years
Finance Committee	One for two years
Hampshire Regional School Committee	One for three years
Elementary School Committee	One for three years
Elementary School Committee	One for one year
Moderator	One for one year
Tree Warden	One for one year
Library Trustees	Two for three years
Constable (Center District)	One for three years

Question 1:

Shall the Town of Westhampton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to purchase a bucket loader for the Highway Department?

YES

NO

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to accept by unanimous consent and without debate the following five articles or any combination of them: Article 4, Care of the Highways; Article 20, Unemployment Benefits; Article 21, Fire Dept. revolving fund; Article 22, Cemetery revolving fund;

Article 23, Police Dept. revolving fund.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to leave the care of the highways in charge of the Selectboard.

ARTICLE 5: To vote in compliance with Section 108, Chapter 41 G.L., which requires that salaries of elected officials be fixed by vote of the Town.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, such sum of money as may be necessary to defray Town charges in the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to meet Westhampton's share of Hampshire Regional School District's assessment for Fiscal 2019, or any lesser sum as may be certified by the District, provided that any such certification shall

be made prior to the establishment of the tax rate, and to meet this appropriation, a sum of money be raised by taxation, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to meet Westhampton's share of Hampshire Regional School District's capital assessment for Fiscal 2019, or any lesser sum as may be certified by the District, provided that any such certification shall be made prior to the establishment of the tax rate, and to meet this appropriation, a sum of money be raised by taxation, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for the Elementary School, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Vocational school tuition, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Vocational school transportation, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Elementary School Lighting Project , and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transferred from available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for a Financial Audit for the Town, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund, or take any action relative thereto. (current balance in Stabilization \$366,773.12)

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of \$186,450.00 as may be certified from available funds, due to the Town as Chapter 90 Highway funds, from the Transportation Bond Issue, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for repairs to the town hall and annex and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transferred from available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money for upgrades to IT infrastructure and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transferred from available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money for a bucket loader for the highway department and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transferred from available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto. (2/3 majority vote required for borrowing authorization)

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money for fuel storage tanks at the highway department garage and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transferred from available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide \$20,000 to hold in anticipation of unemployment benefits for Town employees in accordance with Chapter 151A of the General Laws of Massachusetts.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a revolving fund not to exceed \$2000 for the Fire Department, under MGL Chapter 44, sec 53 E1/2, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a revolving fund not to exceed \$6000 for the Westhampton Cemetery, under MGL Chapter 44, Sec 53 E1/2, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a revolving fund not to exceed \$8,000.00 for the Police Department School Resource Officer payroll, under MGL Chapter 44, sec 53 E1/2, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from Free Cash to reduce the tax rate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Westhampton General Bylaws as follows; proposed amendment in emboldened underline:

Article 4

Section 5 Power of appointment,

4-5-2: The Selectboard shall also appoint: (h) Cemetery Commission of three members, appointed for overlapping three-year terms, in accordance with **M.G. L. Chapter 114**, Section 27.”

(current bylaw references M.G. L. Chapter 41, Section 27)

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Westhampton General Bylaws as follows: (proposed Solar Bylaw included in full warrant)

ARTICLE 27: (Article by petition) Whereas the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Legislature Senate Bill 1305 (sponsored by state Senator Jamie Eldridge) and House Bill 3269 (sponsored by State Representative Juana Matia) powerfully articulates the protection of the civil rights and safety of all Massachusetts residents, we-the residents of the Town of Westhampton-both affirm and join solidarity with these two bills.

In accordance with the moral and ethical stance of the aforementioned Bills to protect civil rights and safety of all Massachusetts residents, we charge the governance and enforcement bodies of the Town of Westhampton to abide by the aforementioned Bills also known as Safe Communities Act.

Furthermore, by the privileged power of our vote, we-the residents of the Town of Westhampton-show decisive actions of kindness, wisdom, and compassion by calling upon the government and enforcement bodies of the Town of Westhampton to fully embody representing a Caring Community in support of Safe Communities.

NOTE: This is a preliminary list of articles for the Annual Town Meeting; it is subject to change and/or additions. The final warrant will be posted at least seven days (May 5) before the Annual Town Meeting. Bring this copy to town meeting for reference.

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